



Print unions offered plant by Murdoch

By a Staff Reporter

News International last night offered the print unions a unique deal to settle the Wapping dispute — the free gift of a complete and fully-operational newspaper printing and publishing plant and a profitable national newspaper printing contract.

Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of the company, made the offer of the plant where *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* were formerly produced in Gray's Inn Road, London, to union leaders at a meeting to discuss the dispute.

The package offered includes 60 newspaper printing press units, computerized typesetting equipment and the total pre-press, publishing, and ancillary installations. The freehold of the 300,000 square foot building and the land it stands on would also be included.

In addition, the company would agree to assign to the unions the contract to print the London editions of *The Guardian* which has two years to run.

More than 5,500 members of Sogat '82, the National Graphical Association, and the engineers' union, the AUEW, walked out on strike in January in support of a claim for life-time jobs. They were later dismissed for breach of contract and have since been picketing the News International plant at Wapping, east London, where



Aintree's first lady: Caroline Beasley, riding Eliogarty, takes the final fence in the Foxhunts Chase on her way to becoming the first woman to ride a winner over the formidable Grand National fences. Racing, pages 36-37 (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

£50m bets forecast for the National

The Grand National, the world's biggest and toughest horse race which attracts more razzmatazz than any other on the calendar, should have broken new ground by the time of the "off" today.

Bookmakers predicted that a record total of £50 million will have been placed in bets both large and small by 3.20pm when 40 steeplechasers thunder out the famous Aintree course.

Most of the big money will have been placed on the more favourably priced mounts, but predictably the pending royal wedding proved more attractive to the 10p brigade, in the shape of a horse called Another Duke, a 200-1 outsider.

A second horse proving only slightly less attractive was Gayle Warning which, at 50-1, indicated that the small punters were putting their faith more in the weather prospects than the performance of the horse.

Lady Luck was not riding for Mr Perry Ramsden, a London businessman. He stood to win a staggering £5 million with a four-horse accumulator bet.

His first two mounts, I Bin Zaidoun and Stearsby, both won on Thursday at Aintree at odds of 14-1 and 11-4. The third horse was Bruno running as favourite in the 3.10 yesterday. But it could only manage third place.

Mr Ramsden, though, still hopes to recoup something in today's big race. He has £50,000 riding each way on his horse Mr Sungitt, the 7-1 favourite.

But luck was in for Steve Smith Eccles, the Newmarket jockey, Mr Smith Eccles, aged 30, who is riding Classified in the National, found himself locked out of his hotel in nearby Southport early yesterday.

He decided to bed down under a pile of rags on the back seat of his blue Mercedes. "The next thing I knew I was waking up to find we were on the move down the nearby M57," he said.

"When the thief realized I was there he pulled in to a screening halt and ran away across some fields."

Last night the Aintree course looked more like Coleridge Castle, with searchlights playing on the three most challenging and celebrated fences at Becher's Brook, Valentine's Brook and The Chair.

Kinnock threat of mass purge for Militant activists

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is threatening a head-on challenge to the Labour left with concerted plans for a mass purge of Militant Tendency supporters and other Trotskyists from the party ranks.

Labour Weekly, the party newspaper, said yesterday that Labour leaders were working on a tight new disciplinary code which will probably go before the party conference in October.

The report said: "The aim is to enable the party to take action — up to and including expulsion — without becoming entangled in lengthy legal cases."

The move marks a dramatic change of course by Mr Kinnock in the wake of last week's humiliating defeat for the national executive at the hands of Liverpool Militants.

It was reported in *The Times* on March 21 that Labour right-wingers were drawing up plans for a grassroots constituency purge of Militant supporters, with the possibility of a special fund to indemnify the cost of Militant counter-attacks in the courts.

Leading party sources said then there was no chance of

Mr Kinnock or Mr Larry Whitty, the party general secretary, backing a general party purge.

Labour Weekly reported that Mr Kinnock now aimed to rewrite the party constitution to give force to a constitutionally-based mass purge.

The move guarantees full-scale conflict between the party leadership and left-wing activists represented by MPs such as Mr Tony Benn, Mr Eric Heffer and Mr Dennis Skinner and union leaders such as Mr Arthur Scargill.

Constituency parties will be actively encouraged to expel Militant supporters, of whom an estimated 8,000 are carrying Labour Party cards.

Labour Weekly said guidelines for disciplinary action were expected to be sent to constituency parties next month. It added: "There is a possibility that a special fund will be set up to assist individuals and parties facing legal costs for attempted expulsions."

As reported in *The Times* last month, new guidelines have been made necessary by Militant legal challenges.

Continued on page 20, col 4

New bids swell City takeover total by £2bn

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Takeover activity in the City of London reached almost unprecedented levels yesterday when three bids worth a total of £2 billion were proposed or launched.

Lloyds Bank angered its international rival, Standard Chartered, by suggesting a £1.2 billion merger and Hillsdown Holdings, a fast-growing foods company, brought to a head months of speculation over the future of the S&W Berisford commodity trading and sugar group, by launching a hostile £430 million bid.

Extel, the news and information services group which includes Burrups Printing and Royds Advertising, became the object of a new £170 million offer by Demerger Corporation, which wants to break the company up into its constituent parts.

Those three bids come hard on the heels of Dixons' ambitious £1.8 billion offer for its bigger retailing rival, Woolworth Holdings, and while the outcome is still uncertain in each of Britain's two biggest takeover battles ever — the £2.8 billion struggle for control of Imperial Group and the acrimonious fight between Guinness and Argyll for Distillers, the Scotch whisky group, both entering their last few weeks.

Two main motives are common to most of the bids in the present wave. One is the belief that British companies are going to have to be a lot bigger to compete adequately in the international market place, and the second is a belief among successful and highly motivated managements that they can improve the performances of a great number of sleepy British companies if they are able to take them over.

The merger proposal by Lloyds Bank, which would create a powerful international banking group with assets of more than £70 billion, surprised the City yesterday. Although Standard Chartered has been the object of takeover speculation for some months,

nobody expected the bid to come from Lloyds.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the Lloyds chairman, proposed talks with his counterpart at Standard Chartered but his suggestion was rejected by Mr Michael McWilliam, managing director of Standard Chartered, as "unwelcome".

Stock market dealers said they expected rival bids and Standard's share price soared nearly 200p to 830p — way above the 750p a share that Lloyds said it would pay.

Dealers mentioned Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Trustee Savings Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Midland Bank as possible rivals.

Lloyds said that its bid would create a banking group with the widest international spread of any European banking organization. Its operations would straddle the world with interests from Latin America to Africa, the Far and Middle East and the United States.

Standard would also give Lloyds an interest in one of South Africa's leading banks, Stanbic.

Hillsdown's offer for Berisford would, if successful, add the Silver Spoon sugar company, British Sugar Corporation, to a group of businesses which already includes Buxted chickens and Smedley's.

As part of the offer the Italian agri-business company Ferruzzi sold its 9 per cent in Berisford to Hillsdown, giving Hillsdown 20 per cent of Berisford. Tate & Lyle, British Sugar's main rival, still holds about 10 per cent of Berisford.

Mr Harry Solomon, joint chairman of Hillsdown, said that he was interested in the whole of Berisford, not just British Sugar, which at the moment is the most profitable part of the group. Mr Ephraim Margulies, chairman of Berisford, wants to retain control of the commodity trading part of the company.

Lloyds surprise, page 21
Market report, page 23

Next week

Monday

Merger mania



As Woolworths and Dixons begin the latest in a long line of furious take-over battles, a three-part series examines the buy-out phenomenon and explains how the game is played, what are the stakes and who really wins

Living in the shadow
Edna Healey talks about the wives of famous men

Portfolio

There is £22,000 to be won in *The Times* Portfolio competition today — £20,000 in the weekly contest and £2,000 in the daily. Yesterday's daily prize of £2,000 was shared between five readers, each receiving £400. They are Mrs M. Lowry, of Cranleigh, Surrey; Mr G.F. Edwards, of Virginia Water, Surrey; Mr M. Barrett, of London NW8; Mrs M.M. Scher, of Swaffham, Norfolk; and Mrs G. Hall, of Farnhead, Warrington.

Portfolio lists, pages 20, 24.

Stocks boom
Stock markets again hit new highs this week, despite uncertainties about the price of oil. But will the boom continue? Family Money, pages 25-34

Contra boost
The US plans to send military advisers to the Nicaraguan Contras if, as now appears more likely, President Reagan wins Congress backing to aid the rebels. Page 5

Schools review 'to avert job society'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Unless Britain's education service improved, the Government might have to consider introducing a national system, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

He added that if the organization of education did not improve it risked creating "a job society and an impoverished culture".

Challenging the historic partnership between central government and local education authorities, Mr Patten said that other countries had a national education service, centrally directed and controlled.

In a speech to the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association's annual conference in Cardiff, he said that the past year's pay dispute and disruption to schools had raised questions about the way in which we organize, deliver and pay for education.

The British system of partnership between local authorities and central government could be challenged on philosophical grounds or from a concern for financial effectiveness, he said. "But the main and most generally convincing ground for challenge, certainly to a Tory, is that based on quality."

The key issue was educational standards, he said. "Even a return to normality would not mean that our problems were over. There were problems facing the school system which were more fundamental than pay and conditions."

"The root question is whether the school system is delivering to its pupils the standards of educational achievement which they and the nation need. To the extent that there may be doubt about the achievement of those standards, doubt is cast on the performance of the various parts of the system and the relationship between them."

He added that there was evidence from school inspectors that standards attained by pupils were not as good as they could be, nor as good as they needed to be if young people were to be equipped for the next century. This was not an attack on teachers, he said, but a serious challenge to us all.

Although Mr Patten did not use the word "crisis" he said there were grounds for considerable concern about our education system. "The past year has been a wretched one for all of us in education."

He said that teachers, who were also partners in the education system, were rightly worried about allegations that even a tiny extremist minority of teachers were biased in the way they taught, or as a matter of philosophical conviction did not believe in stretching individual pupils' capabilities to the full.

"Ideological bias in education is so serious that none of the education partners can afford to ignore even the often incomplete evidence that it sometimes occurs."

Boycott impossible, page 2

Polish visit cancelled

A planned visit to London by Mr Marian Orzechowski, the Polish Foreign Minister, later this month has been called off because Mrs Thatcher refused to meet him.

The visit, which would have been in return for the one which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, made to Warsaw normally a visiting foreign minister will be received only

by the Foreign Secretary and other ministers with whom he wants to do special business.

However, the Poles, anxious to establish greater international credibility for the Jaruzelski regime, had insisted that Mr Orzechowski should be received at Downing Street. When they were told this was not possible they decided to call off the visit altogether.

TWA suspect may have tried before

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Italian security authorities suspect that May Elias Mansur, the woman believed to have planted the bomb that killed four people on board the TWA airliner this week, tried to blow up an Italian airliner in December 1983.

The incident involved an Alitalia Airbus flying from Istanbul to Rome. Turkish police discovered that one passenger had checked in but had not boarded the aircraft.

All the luggage was examined, and a carton of cigarettes stuffed with explosives was found in an unclaimed suitcase. Staff at the check-in desk gave a description of the woman, who was later reported to be connected with the Abu Nidal extremist group.

The description was being compared yesterday with that given by passengers who had travelled next to Ms Mansur on Wednesday's TWA Boeing 727 flight from Cairo to Athens when, police believe, the same woman planted a plastic bomb which exploded on the Rome to Athens flight about eight hours after she got off the plane.

According to eyewitnesses, the woman was aged about 30 and had a slight limp. She claimed she did not speak any language but Arabic.

She is believed to be a Palestinian born in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. She was carrying a Jordanian passport in the false name of Mansur.

A description of a woman resembling Ms Mansur was in the possession of the Egyptian police before she even boarded the plane. She was checked so carefully by security officials at Cairo airport that she was the last to be allowed on board.

Ms Mansur is believed to have placed plastic explosives in a life preserver under seat 10F on the Cairo to Athens flight. After stopping in the transit lounge at Athens airport, she boarded a Middle East Airlines flight for Beirut.

She was identified through her airline ticket to Beirut.

According to unconfirmed reports from Rome, passengers on the Cairo to Athens flight said the woman in seat 10F had kept her tray table down throughout the flight, probably to conceal her actions.

Bomb aftermath, page 5

Franc set to drop after EMS talks

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

European finance ministers assembled in the Dutch holiday village of Ootmarsum last night to fix the first major realignment of currencies within the European Monetary System for over three years. This is expected to result in a substantial devaluation of the French franc against the mark.

French sources suggest that the new Government of M. Jacques Chirac may be prepared to loosen French exchange controls as part of the deal.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, is taking part in the meetings, but Treasury sources last night said there was no change in the British Government's view that the time was not ripe for Britain to join the fixed-currency system.

A realignment was signalled early yesterday when the Bank of France suspended official currency quotations, a move that was quickly followed by the central banks of all other EMS countries.

The position of the pound will be decided by the currency markets when they reopen after the realignment on Monday. However, it must result in either a further fall in sterling against the mark or a rise in the pound against the French franc.

The pound closed in London up 12 centimes against the franc, at FF10.9255, and down slightly less than two pence against the mark, at DM3.4624.

Full members of the EMS — which include all member countries of the European Community except Britain, Spain, Greece and Portugal — restrict movements in their exchange rates against other members' currencies to within 2½ per cent of a central rate, except for Italy, which retains wider margins of 6 per cent.

Continued on page 20, col 3

Israel demands access to file on Waldheim

New York — The Israeli Government yesterday officially requested access to a secret United Nations file on the Second World War activities of Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General alleged to have been an intelligence officer in the German Army and to have been involved in operations against the Greek resistance and Yugoslav partisans (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

The file is one of 40,000 compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission between 1943 and 1948. The Israeli request came after the UN had made it clear that only governments could see the documents, which several Jewish organizations had said should be made public.

Diplomatic sources said that Israel would have preferred to wait until after next month's Austrian elections, in which Dr Waldheim is a presidential candidate, before making the request.

Waldheim denial, page 5

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Protestant churchmen join condemnation of 'loyalist' attacks

Protestant church leaders in Northern Ireland yesterday joined the growing chorus condemning "loyalist" attacks on the Royal Ulster Constabulary after officers and their families suffered a fourth night of intimidation.

The four Church of Ireland bishops in the province condemned the spate of attacks on the police and sectarian attacks on the homes of Roman Catholics. They expressed utter revulsion at the incidents.

And the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr Robert Dickinson, said the attacks were "cruel, wrong and dangerous".

"However unjust and unwise the decisions of those in authority may be felt to be, it is totally wrong to victimize those who are obliged to implement such decisions in fulfilment of their duty to uphold the law," he said.

Senior officers of the RUC

From Richard Ford, Belfast

four other people are helping police in connection with petrol bomb attacks on the homes of four officers in the same area on Wednesday.

Two men are being questioned in Ballymena after a petrol bomb attack on the home of a Roman Catholic family. An imitation firearm, woollen mask, hooded combat jacket and glove were found in the back of a car stopped near the attack.

The Irish National Liberation Army bombed the Newry and Mourne council offices in Newry, Co Down, early yesterday, causing extensive damage to the building.

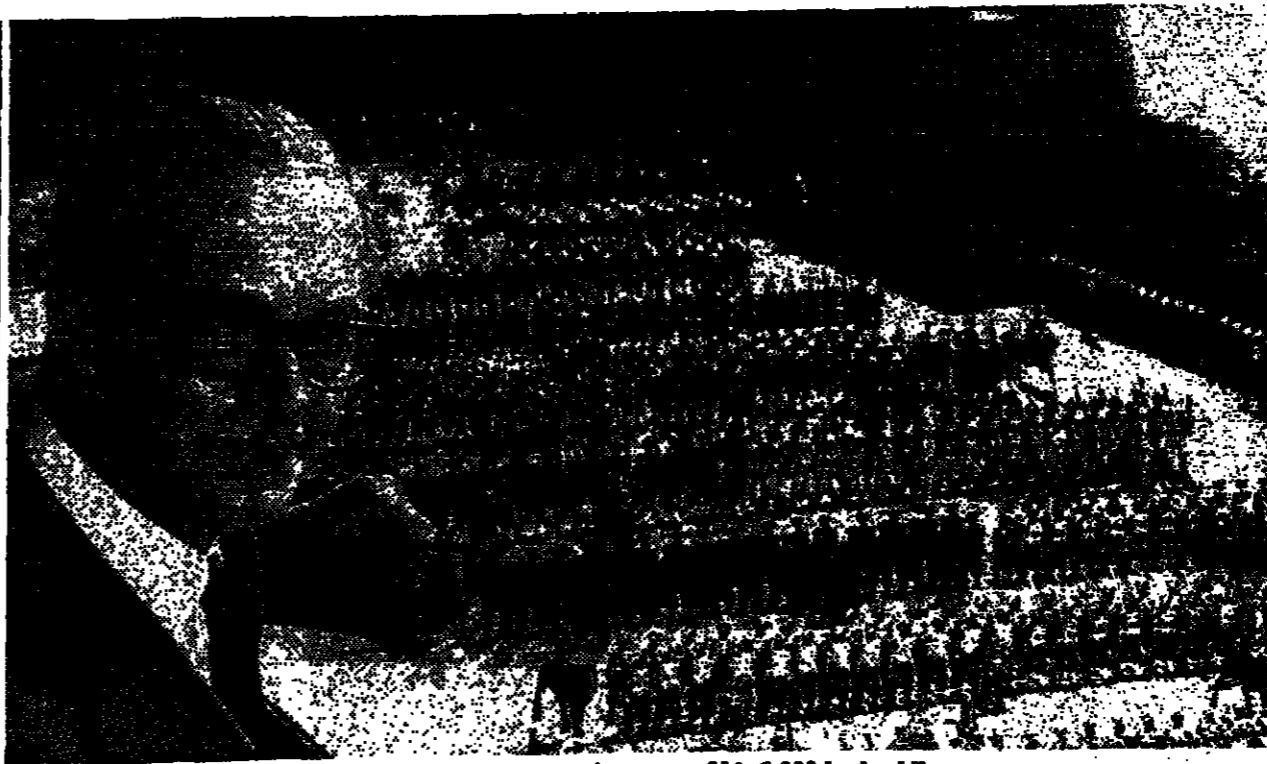
The RUC said last night that since March 3, the loyalist day of action, 68 police families had been intimidated with 45 of the incidents occurring since Easter Sunday when Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, banned the Apprentice Boys parade in Portadown.

They fear that the force is not yet through the worst of the spate of incidents against officers.

In the fourth night of loyalist attacks designed to undermine morale, seven homes were pelted with bottles and stones in east Belfast, six were attacked in the north of the city and one in Portadown. No one was injured in the attacks.

Loyalist bombers and gunmen attacked an RUC Land Rover in north Belfast, firing 17 shots at it, and a petrol can containing nails, bolts and shrapnel exploded as the vehicle drove through the housing estate. A command wire ran 300 metres to landscaped ground where the terrorists waited to detonate it.

Three people are being questioned by detectives after a loaded magazine, a double-barrel shotgun and 2,000 rounds of ammunition were found by police searching the Cragagh community centre in east Belfast.



Mr George Palmer inspecting some of his 2,000 lead soldiers.

Glory of the Raj on show

The glory of the Raj will be recreated when one of the country's largest collections of lead soldiers goes on public display for the first time in Britain next week.

More than 2,000 figures are used for the recreation of the "Delhi Durbar", when the newly crowned George V was presented to India for the first time as Emperor King.

It is the work of Mr George Palmer, aged 66, a model enthusiast and collector, and goes on display to the public for six months from tomorrow at Sledmere House, near Bridlington, North Yorkshire.

Mr Palmer has spent more than six months working on the 30ft long display. It has been reconstructed from original photographs of the ceremony and the records.

The display is being mounted in aid of the Children's Society. Previously unseen in this country, the collection of lead soldiers many dating from the turn of the century attracted thousands of visitors when it was shown on New York's Fifth Avenue during the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Australia at the time of the Commonwealth Games.

However, Mr Palmer said: "Because of the size of the display we have been unable to show all the troops taking part.

GCSE boycott by union 'impossible'

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday described the decision of the biggest teachers' union to boycott the September introduction of the new GCSE examination as "totally impossible".

The National Union of Teachers resolved this week to continue teaching O level and CSE courses this autumn in defiance of the Government's plan to introduce the GCSE for 16-year-olds.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, responded angrily to Sir Keith's comments. He said: "What all three teacher union conferences have demonstrated this week is that, if anything, the grassroots membership of the NUT, the NAS/UWT and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association want to go even further than their executives."

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, yesterday rejected selective "Crown schools", vouchers and greater centralization of power as solutions to the crisis in education (George Hill writes).

Speaking in York at the annual conference of the Association of Parent-Teacher Associations, he said that conflict in schools was likely to continue. He reaffirmed his party's commitment to local discretion within a framework designed to safeguard standards.

Motorists face MOT crisis

Thousands of motorists throughout Britain face having to keep their vehicles off the road for two weeks because garages have run out of MOT certificates.

The Department of Transport admitted yesterday that staff at the new centralized Goods Vehicle Centre in Swansea had underestimated the number of blank forms needed by garages.

The Swansea centre was established two months ago as a cost-cutting measure to replace nine regional MOT distribution centres. Four extra staff have since been drafted in to deal with a three-week backlog of orders for the forms.

"But the situation should be normal in a fortnight. Like any new centre, there are initial problems, and in this case, staff underestimated the scale of the task," a transport department spokesman said.

He added that in emergency cases garages should apply to the 31 Heavy Goods Vehicles Testing Centres.

The department said some garages are not affected. However, the Motor Agents Association, which represents garages throughout Britain, described the department bungle as a "debacle of crisis proportion".

Brittan attack on hysteria over BL

Student Tory opposition to the sale of BL to General Motors had bordered on hysteria and rickled debating true patriotism, Mr Leon Brittan said yesterday.

He called for his party to prepare for the next election without letting itself be "bounced and bullied" by emotionalism into being diverted from right and practical policies.

"No government could possibly have ignored the upsurge of protest," he told the Federation of Conservative Students in Scarborough. "But that does not mean that the protest were justified, or that those who fomented them served their country well."

"If the choice is between a viable concern, operating in Britain, to the benefit of the British people, but owned by GM, and a concern that is constantly in jeopardy, a perpetual drain on the taxpayer, insecure and not viable, then there can be no doubt whatsoever that it is in the national interest to choose the viable route."

Mr Brittan's resignation as trade and industry secretary in January came after accusations that he had been too ready to allow the Westland helicopter company to fall under American control.

In an apparent reference to the aggressive campaigning favoured by Mr Norman Tebbit as well as by the Conservative students themselves, Mr Brittan warned against "adopting a harsh, or destructive or unnecessarily contentious tone" in the coming election.

Two bidders for Land Rover, Mr "Tiny" Rowland of Lounro, and Dr David Andrews, head of the management buy-out team, visited the company's factory at Solihull, Birmingham, yesterday. They have until April 15 to revise their bids.

More risk for whale population

International efforts to protect whales are in serious danger of collapse, threatening the eventual extinction of the species, a leading whale expert said yesterday.

At the same time, new scientific research from Norway had shown that the ability of the seriously-depleted whale population to regenerate itself was twice as bad as was thought when the current five-year international moratorium was declared, Dr Roger Payne, the World Wildlife Fund's whale research scientist, said.

Dr Payne, who will be subject of a *Naturewatch* programme on ITV on Monday evening, said that the moratorium would not win the battle.

He said that pressure was being applied to four Nordic countries to pull out of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Norway has already declared, along with the Soviet Union and Japan, that it will not adhere to the moratorium.

Granddaughter of Stalin to return

The Home Office has agreed to grant a visa to Josef Stalin's granddaughter, Miss Olga Peters, aged 14, to enable her to return to boarding school in Britain after two years in the Soviet Union.

However, she will not be accompanied by her mother, Miss Svetlana Allituyeva, who took her daughter with her when she returned to the Soviet Union in 1984. No visa application for her had been received, a Home Office spokesman said yesterday.

Miss Peters, who was born in the United States, is the daughter of Mr William Peters, a US architect, Miss Allituyeva's fourth husband. She will return to the Friends' School at Saffron Walden, Essex, where she studied for 18 months, when the summer term begins next weekend.

Mr Nicholas Hawksley, the school bursar, said yesterday: "When her mother removed her two years ago she asked the head, Dr John Woods,

Whether he would have her back and he agreed."

Miss Peters, who had not lived in the Soviet Union before, was reported to be unhappy with her mother in Soviet Georgia. She had spent most of her life in the US and had acquired a Californian accent.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British Embassy in Moscow had received a visa application on the girl's behalf from the Soviet foreign ministry on Wednesday.

The application had been expected since Mr Viktor Louis, a Soviet journalist, reported last month that Miss Allituyeva was attempting to return her daughter to Britain.

He said that Miss Allituyeva, aged 60, who returned to the Soviet Union after 17 years in the West, was also trying to leave.

However, he said it was unlikely that she would be given permission as Moscow had already granted her a special concession by restoring her Soviet citizenship.

Bickering for second place

With five days left before the south-west London by-election at Fulham, Alliance and Conservative candidates are engaged in a bitter battle over who can best stop Labour winning.

Both parties acknowledge that Mr Nick Raynsford, for Labour, remains out in the lead. But while Mr Roger Liddle, for the Alliance, and Mr Matthew Carrington, the Tory candidate, insist they can still win, in practice they appear to be fighting over who will finish second.

Mr Carrington, who can count on the support of a substantial block of unwavering Conservatives, unlikely labelled by one observer as the Hooray Henry set, yesterday issued a new leaflet explaining "why the SDP want Labour to win".

Mr Liddle, who hopes to have 1,000 Alliance supporters working in the south-west London constituency this weekend, yesterday highlighted the "irrelevance" of the Tory candidate.

"The real contest is between ourselves and the Labour candidate," Mr Liddle added.

Bound over

Geoffrey Dixon, a Bexley councillor, was yesterday bound over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for a year after police offered no evidence on allegations of his using insulting words and behaviour and obstruction outside the News International plant at Wapping on March 8. Dixon, of Sidcup, Kent, denied both offences.

Correction

Cardinal Wolsey died while under arrest for treason, and was not executed as stated on Tuesday.

Exchange Rates: The Times overseas rates are: Canada \$2.75, Ceylon Rs 200, Cyprus Pounds 3.00, Denmark Kr 6.00, Germany DM 3.36, Greece Dr 166, Holland Gld 1.70, Irish Pounds 7.26, Italy Lira 1,376, Japan Yen 148, Malaysia RM 1.70, Malta Lira 206, New Zealand \$2.00, Norway Kr 4.76, Pakistan Rs 16, Portugal Esc 200, Singapore S\$ 1.00, Sweden Kr 6.00, Switzerland Fr 1.70, Taiwan NT\$ 20, Thailand Baht 51.76, Yugoslavia Din 400.

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Sunday isn't Sunday without the Sunday Times

Predator with a low profile

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, emerged this week as the man who believes he is best qualified to revive the Woolworth retail chain.

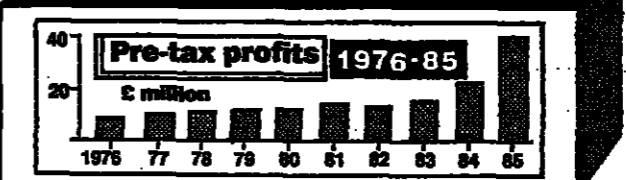
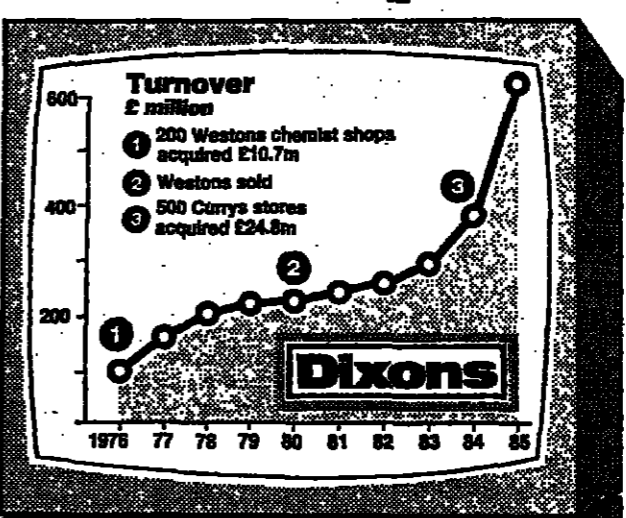
In an ambitious £1,800 million bid for Woolworth Holdings, Mr Kalms laid claim to 14.4 million square feet of selling space, which makes Woolies the biggest British retailer in terms of floor space, ahead of Marks & Spencer with 9.8 million square feet.

In spite of his ambition, his impressive track record at Dixons, and his strong following in the City, Mr Kalms is hardly a household name. Mr Terence Coman, of Habitat-Mothercare and now British Home Stores, Mr Ralph Halpern, of Burton and Debenhams, and Sir Philip Harris, of Harris Queensway, are all far better known.

The reason is that Mr Kalms does not believe in personality cults. He said yesterday that Dixons was successful because it had top rate management. "I'm a good organizer. A lot of people in the company push for expansion. They push and I pull."

Mr Kalms, aged 54, built up Dixons on the foundation of his father's north London photographic studio, which he joined in 1948. With its head office still in Edgware, he lives close by in Stanmore, Middlesex.

Since going public in 1962 with 16 photographic shops and an annual profits of £160,000, the business has continued to expand. Dixons Group now has 830 shops and 1.5 million square feet of selling space. Just over 500 shops came from Currys, the rival electrical goods retailer, which it took over in Decem-



ber 1984 in an acrimonious £250 million battle.

The speed and success of the Currys integration, combined with Dixons' continued profit growth and market share gain, has ensured Mr Kalms of a devoted following in the City. Instead of its shares falling, the news of a huge bid which would more than double its market capitalization saw prices shoot up.

Mr Kalms' success has had its material rewards, with a 72 per cent rise in salary in 1984-85 to £208,000. He remains a retailer to the core and does not believe in diversifying.

He resigned from being a "name" at Lloyds some years ago because he did not understand the insurance business and had no influence over the way his affairs were run. "I like to be in charge of my own destiny," he said.

Retail analysts agree on the shrewdness of the timing of his Woolworth bid. The view is that the new management at Woolworth has made great strides in the last three-and-a-half years, but the changes have yet to feed through.

Woolworth team, page 21

Mr Stanley Kalms, bidding for control of Woolworth

Discoveries of primitive algae

Part of the textbooks of plant and animal biology need rewriting, after two separate lines of research.

Both discoveries come from teams of biologists who have studied some of the simplest forms of plants and micro-organisms which thrive in water. One group has found that six common species of plant-like freshwater organism for microbiology at the University of Amsterdam, and her colleagues, have for the first time found swimming freely in these particular varieties of primitive sort of algae named plankton get their energy and Prochloron. It was recovered carbon from photosynthesis from the Loosdrecht lakes of The Netherlands, and it is a similar type of simple organism as Dinobryon.

Until now the organism was a rarity. Only symbiotic forms were found with Prochloron living on the surface of a sedentary sponge-like animal.

Prochloron was reluctant to be parted from its host for growing in the laboratory. So studies of the organism have meant visiting a sun-drenched beach in Baja.

The fascination lies in the part these primitive objects may have played in the early stages of evolution. They may provide one of the missing links in the evolutionary tree from single cell to complex organisms. It is possible that Prochloron-type organisms were the building blocks of more elaborate cells.

Now there is an abundant source from temperate waters. It should be possible to grow the organism in the laboratory.

But the Dinobryons have raised additional questions by showing that when there is insufficient sunlight for photosynthesis they can digest bacteria.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "كتاب في الجود"

Mother to sue if costs of her case against son's killer are not paid

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The mother who privately prosecuted the drug pusher who killed her son and lost her battle for nearly £13,000 expenses, says she will sue Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, if her costs are not reimbursed.

A grant to her by the Ross McWhirter Memorial Trust, announced yesterday, is for an undisclosed sum. But Mr Norris McWhirter, whose twin, Ross, was murdered by the IRA in 1975, said the grant "is clearly for hundreds rather than thousands of pounds".

Mrs Pauline Williams, aged 45, launched the only private prosecution this century to result in a manslaughter trial after the death of her son, John, aged 19.

Last February, her three-and-a-half-year legal fight resulted in Gary Austin, aged 25, being jailed for 15 months at St

Albans Crown Court. He was found guilty of manslaughter and maliciously administering a noxious substance, the drug palfium, so as to endanger life.

The conviction came after the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, had decided not to prosecute Austin. And it was disclosed on Thursday that Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General, had twice told Austin in 1983 that he would not be prosecuted for manslaughter because of a lack of evidence.

After the case, Mrs Williams, of Whipperley Ring, Luton, said she was awarded only £3,500 of the £16,500 prosecution costs incurred.

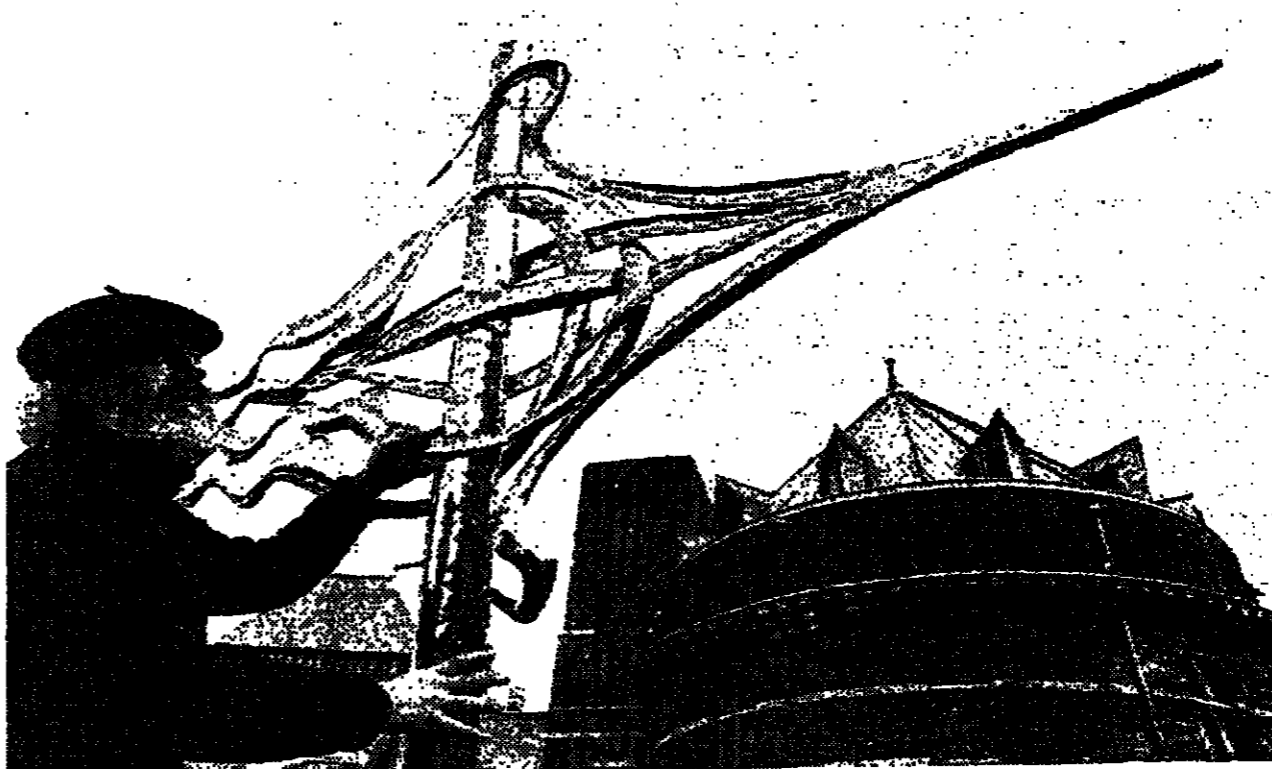
Last month Mrs Williams and her husband received a letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher in which she said she regretted that the law did not allow a private prosecutor to

be paid costs for preparing the case.

Mrs Williams has written to Lord Hailsham explaining that she will charge £1 an hour for all the work she put into the case. She says people who find themselves in the same position may be deterred from bringing private prosecutions if at the end they cannot claim costs.

Announcing the trust's award yesterday, Mr McWhirter said that Mr and Mrs Williams had been invited to a dinner in the City of London to receive the award from Mrs Rosemary McWhirter, his brother's widow.

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who is president of the memorial trust, said yesterday he regarded the award as "an excellent one".



Antony Robinson, a sculptor, of Stanton upon Hine Heath, Shrewsbury, with one of his hand forged stainless steel swans being placed on the roof of the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

£2m plea in US

American millionaires are to be asked to support an appeal to raise £2 million towards the acquisition of Lord Scarsdale's Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire by the National Trust.

The trust believes the Americans can make a large contribution to raise the money within 12 months.

It was announced last month that the National Heritage

Memorial Fund is contributing £13.5 million towards Kedleston, Lord Scarsdale has made over the property plus £2.5 million and the National Trust has contributed £1 million. This still leaves a £2 million gap.

Kedleston Hall is one of the greatest eighteenth-century houses in England built by Robert Adam for the Curzon family.

Posters appeal

Manchester City Council is to print 2,000 "wanted" posters with an artist's impressions of two men, alleged to be police officers, who are said to have assaulted a former Manchester University student.

Mr Steven Shaw, aged 23, claims that in February he was attacked in Longsight, Manchester, by two men. They punched and kicked him, struck him in the chest with a bottle and burnt his cheek

He said it was an attempt to prevent him giving evidence to an internal policy inquiry into the so-called "battle of Britain" at the university in March last year when there were demonstrations against Mr Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary.

Mr Tony McCardell, chairman of the council's police monitoring committee, said he believed that senior police were involved in a cover-up.

Tyra death inquiry delayed by dispute

The inquiry set up by Lambeth council into the death of Tyra Henry, aged 20 months, has been postponed because of a dispute over the membership of the inquiry team.

The local government workers' union, Naigo, has said it will not co-operate with the inquiry, which was due to start next Monday, unless changes were made to the panel.

It has demanded the inclusion of a practising social worker and the removal of one appointed member because, it claimed, she was also a member of the council's fostering and adoption panel.

Mr Mike Waller, secretary of Naigo's Lambeth council branch, said yesterday: "We are not challenging the integrity of any panel member. But it must be seen to be fair, totally independent and external to the council."

Mr Waller said it was also essential that a social worker with direct experience of child abuse cases was included on the panel.

Naigo is now seeking an early meeting with council leaders aimed at resolving the wrangle. The dead child's father, Andrew Neil, aged 20, was convicted of her murder last July and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Photographic memory traps rapist

A rapist was yesterday ordered to pay £700 compensation to his victim whose "remarkable photographic memory" trapped him.

The cash award was made by Sir James Miskin, QC, Recorder of London, at the Central Criminal Court.

Paul Richards, aged 23, an electrician, of Springfield estate, Clapton, was jailed for seven years when he admitted raping a bank clerk aged 28 at her flat at Kenton, Middlesex, last October. He also admitted burgling her home and six other burglary offences.

Mr Simon Evans, for the prosecution, said: "The woman was able, with her remarkable photographic memory, to recall every detail of his face."

She gave such a good description that a life-like sketch of Richards was circulated and led to his arrest within days.

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who is president of the memorial trust, said yesterday he regarded the award as "an excellent one".

Count the extra benefits of the Nissan Sunny Spirit. They add up to over £1,400.

The Nissan Sunny GS is no ordinary car. It is a very fully equipped quality saloon that even includes such items as tinted glass and a five-speed gearbox for which you would be charged extra by its major competitors.

Now we have produced the new Sunny Spirit, which is a very special car indeed.

Because we have taken value a stage further and, without increasing the price, added a luxury new interior and many items of equipment which, in the normal way, would cost you over £1000 to have fitted! There's velour upholstery, a sun-roof, stereo cassette system, and so on.

Nissan Sunny GS equipment includes:

- * 5-speed gearbox (around £160 extra on Escort L, Astra L, Maestro L, etc)
- * Tinted glass (around £50 extra on Escort L, Astra L, Maestro L, etc)
- * 2 Interior adjustable door mirrors
- * Interior boot release
- * Quartz analogue clock
- * 4-speed heater etc.

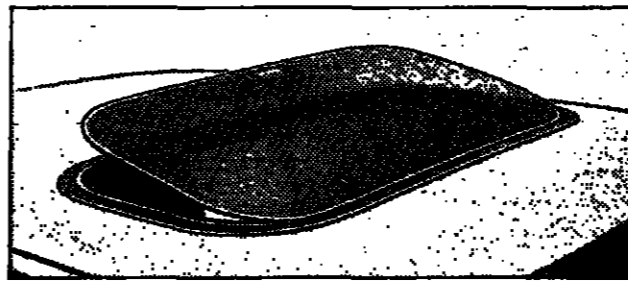
And has a 3-year/100,000 mile warranty for which the others will charge you up to \$229.

Yet the Sunny has a lower price than all three!

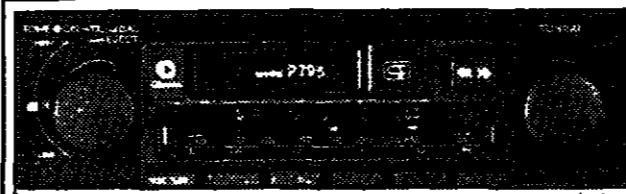
Now we've added these features to the Sunny Spirit at no extra cost:

- * Velour upholstery
- * Stereo radio/cassette system
- * Tinted glass sunroof (Britax)
- * Inertia reel rear seat belts
- * Colour keyed door mirrors
- * Aerodynamic wheel trims
- * Body pinstripes and chrome tailpipe

Which would normally cost you £1048 to have fitted as extras.



Tilt and remove Britax sun-roof.



Auto replay stereo cassette and radio.

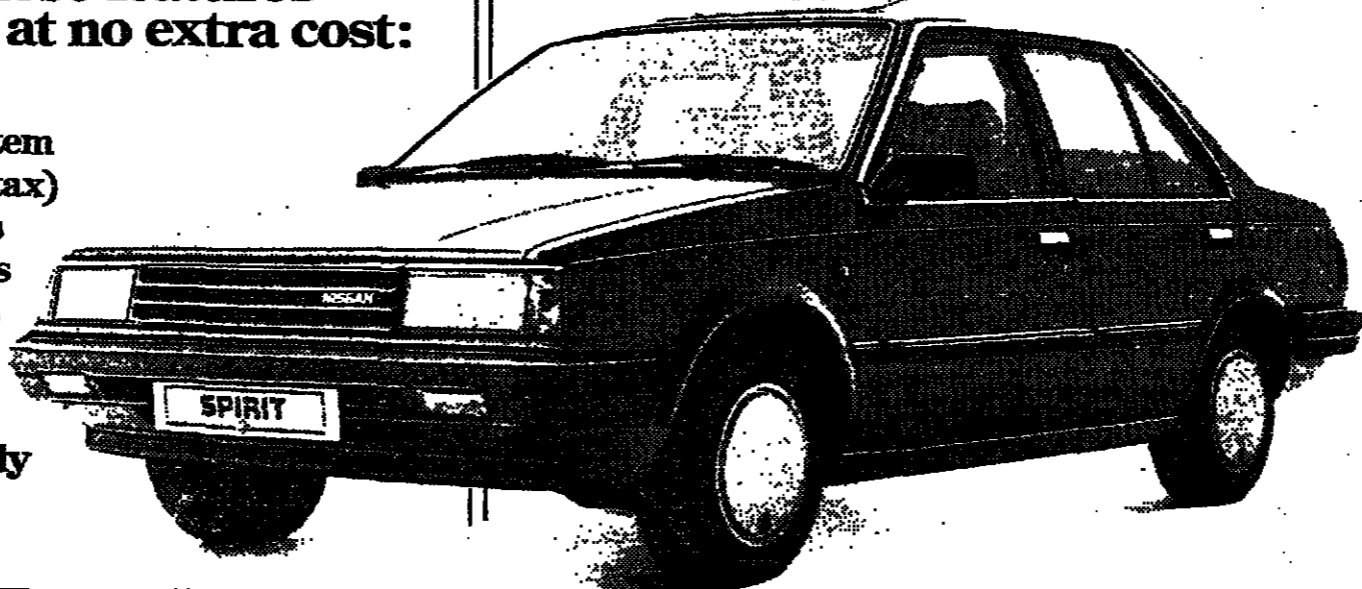
All this extra value and it's a pleasure to drive. The Sunny Spirit gives you genuine performance and economy with the 1.5 litre coupe able to spirit you over 100 mph and the saloon, with the same engine, capable of over 53 mpg.

The new Sunny Spirit range is at your Nissan dealer now - that's the place to get the extra benefit.

All this extra value and it's a pleasure to drive.

The Sunny Spirit gives you genuine performance and economy with the 1.5 litre coupe able to spirit you over 100 mph and the saloon, with the same engine, capable of over 53 mpg.

The new Sunny Spirit range is at your Nissan dealer now - that's the place to get the extra benefit.



Sunny Spirits from £6096.



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Sale room Decorative appeal of Old Masters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A week before their big spring sale of Old Master paintings, Christie's yesterday tried to find buyers for about 200 lesser quality Old Masters with only moderate success. The sale totalled £512,384, but 37 per cent was unsold.

Most of the paintings were estimated in the £2,000 to £20,000 range and bidders demonstrated that, at this sort of price, their main interest lay in decorative appeal.

Religious or mythological paintings, unless they were exceptionally pretty, generally failed to impress buyers. Almost every flower painting was sold, whatever its quality, although quite a few landscapes did not match the occasionally inflated hopes of the sellers.

The top price in the sale was £25,920 (estimate £8,000-£12,000) for an imaginary view of the city of Jerusalem by Monsu Desiderio, a painter of fantastic visionary scenes which are much in vogue. The same price (estimate £10,000-£15,000) was paid for an 8in by 5½in painting on copper attributed to Hendrik Avercamp, which depicts a peasant couple standing on ice wearing elaborate skates. Beyond the frozen water, corpses swing from a gallows.

It was one of three tiny skating scenes on copper bought by the same dealer, all from the same source and attributed to Avercamp. It was also the most attractive, the others selling for £17,280 (estimate £7,000-£10,000) and £7,560 (estimate £7,000-£10,000).

The top price for flowers was £20,520 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) for a still life pair of mixed flowers in sculpted urns, set in Italianate landscapes, by Karel van Vogelaeer. Wildenstein, the international dealers, scooped up an attractive view of Tivoli, attributed by Christie's to "François Boucher and Studio", at £15,120.

According to the Christie's catalogue, there are three known versions of the painting and only one is considered a fully authentic work by Boucher. Mr Daniel Wildenstein has written a Boucher catalogue and it seems likely that he has a higher opinion of the painting than Christie's.

Next week's sale of Old Master paintings, including Goya's portrait of the "Marquesa de Santa Cruz", which could set a new auction record for a painting, goes on public view at Christie's from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday and from 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Thursday.

Two Scottish players, international master Mark Condie

English juniors trail in Oakham chess

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Pavel Belamy, of Czechoslovakia, and Csaba Horvath, of Hungary, shared the lead with two points each at the end of round two in the Oakham International Junior Tournament.

Five English players, international masters Stuart Conquest and James Howell, and Neil McDonald, Ian Thomas and Chris Ward, are close behind with one-and-a-half points.

Two Scottish players, international master Mark Condie

and Mark Burgess, also have one-and-a-half points.

The tournament, at Oakham School, Rutland, Leicestershire, sponsored by Mr John Jewwood, has produced high-quality play. Matches start at 1 pm daily.

A total of 42 players from 23 countries are competing. Other players with one-and-a-half points after two rounds: Klinger (Austria), Marin (Romania), Kuczynski (Poland), Galego (Portugal), Pulkovi (Hungary) and Buckmire (Barbados).

A proud tradition of Scots classics

By Philip Howard

Classical roots run deep in Scotland. The first recorded teaching of classics was at Ayr Academy in 1233. By 1592, there were three universities in Aberdeenshire, but only two in England. In this century, classical education has been a staple diet in the schools and universities of Scotland.

In a paper to a joint meeting of the Classical Association and the Classical Association of Scotland at Glasgow University, Dr G.P. Edwards discussed Latin and Greek in the proud Scottish tradition.

By close study of the iconography of monuments, she shows how some of the ancients used the idea of a journey that the dead took to the afterlife.

It was an odd sort of journey. Sometimes they went by horse, sometimes by chariot. Some went by boat and others by eagle. And flights of angels winged some of them to their rest. Even the ashes in an Etruscan urn were equipped with a pair of terra cotta boots for the death march.

The length and the route of the journey are obscure. But the notion has a long and interesting history.

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Washington will send military advisers if aid to Contras renewed

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States plans to supply military advisers to the Nicaraguan Contras if Congress gives President Reagan authority to resume military aid to the rebels later this year. All the signs are that the White House is winning the long battle on Capitol Hill to get the money.

Military analysts say that the guerrillas have proved to be logistically weak without direct military guidance from the US, which in essence created the fighters out of several rag-tag bands early in 1982 with funds totalling more than \$80 million (£53 million) before Congress called a halt in mid-1984.

Most of the guerrillas are based in Honduras, with smaller groups operating from the Costa Rican border to the south. Administration officials say that American training could take place in the camps in Honduras, in El Salvador, or in military bases in the US.

The programme is expected to be one of the Administration's priorities once military aid begins flowing.

The White House is expected soon to present a plan for military assistance to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, which is

due to vote on the issue on April 15. The Democrats are preparing their own plan, laying strong emphasis on attempted peace negotiations over a specific period before any money is released.

President Ortega's implicit refusal in a television interview on Saturday to negotiate directly with the Contras has undoubtedly strengthened the Administration's case in Congress.

His defiant statement that he was willing to meet President Reagan, "chief of the Contras", did not go down well.

The idea of training the rebels in Honduras is likely to raise eyebrows in Tegucigalpa, which has been moving towards a foreign policy more independent of the US. It has been enormously embarrassed by the publicity given to recent military incursions by Nicaraguan troops who have tried to rout Contra bases inside Honduran territory.

The White House denied assertions by a senior Honduran official published in American newspapers on Thursday that the US had deliberately exaggerated the seriousness of Nicaragua's border raids and had pressured Honduras into asking

for \$20 million in emergency military aid. Both the Honduran claims and the strength of the US denial point to increased tensions between the two countries.

Many Honduran civilian and military leaders believe the *de facto* permanent US military presence is an affront to the country's territorial integrity.

The White House and the State Department said in statements that the Honduran claim "comes as a surprise to us, especially in view of their deviation from the facts and from the public and private position of the Honduran Government".

Mr John Ferch, the US Ambassador to Honduras, has been instructed to seek clarification from President Azcona. According to the State Department, the Honduran official's statement was not cleared by the President. The unnamed official said that Honduras had not felt that its security was endangered by the Nicaraguans.

Honduras had asked for emergency military aid only after the American Embassy suggested that the US would welcome such a request.

Behind the struggle, page 8

Campus battle over apartheid



Police storming barricades erected on the Berkeley campus of the University of California to join battle with students protesting at the university's \$2.4 billion (£1 billion) investment in companies doing business with South Africa.

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Boycott urged on pilots

Washington (Reuters) — The US Airline Pilots Association urged pilots worldwide yesterday to boycott countries linked to terrorist acts such as Wednesday's attack on a TWA airliner.

The boycott will be formally proposed at a meeting of the International Airline Pilots Association in London on April 10, an ALPA spokesman, Mr John Mazon said.

He said safety had improved at many airports around the world after recent hijacks and bombings but was still inadequate in some places, with lax procedures for security screening of baggage, maintenance and catering staff.

Mr Mazon said the TWA bomb could have been taken undetected through airport security devices. "No security device is 100 per cent effective 100 per cent of the time."

A full list of countries which should be boycotted had not been drawn up, he said, but sources said Libya, Syria, and Iran would probably be included.

US officials claim all three countries have backed terrorist groups which have carried out attacks on Western targets.

Mr Mazon said ALPA would like to see the boycott expanded to include blacklisting by airport staff of planes from proscribed countries with refuelling and baggage facilities denied to them.

Aftermath of the TWA attack

FBI experts believe bomb was placed in lifejacket

American investigators sent to Athens by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist the Greek police now believe that the bomb that damaged a TWA airliner, killing four of its passengers over Greece last Wednesday, had been concealed under seat number 10F, probably inside the life jacket.

"It was a plastic bomb and its impact bent the metal of the cabin floor downwards towards the luggage hold", a source close to the investigation told *The Times*.

An earlier theory that the explosion was due to a sort of limpet mine, attached to the wall of the aircraft, has now been discarded.

The findings focused suspicion on the mysterious woman passenger who had occupied seat 10F on the plane's flight from Cairo to Athens earlier that day.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister, told a news conference: "I do not know if Mansur is a terrorist, if she has left Greece, or if she was in transit here."

He said the Greek police should be allowed to complete their investigations and react angrily when an American correspondent asked if Greece had a secret agreement with extremist groups to allow their safe passage through Greece. Mr Papoulias rejected the question as "an insult to Greece" and denied that such a deal ever existed.

From what he knew, the group which had carried out the bombing had been the Abu Massa Group, located in Syria, under Syrian auspices, together with Abu Nidal.

Mr Peres said that a claim of responsibility by a group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Cells was an attempted cover-up.

From Mario Modiano, Athens

He insisted that the current investigation into the TWA bomb outrage was being conducted by the Greek police.

"The American agents and Italian police officers are here as observers only," he said.

The bodies of the four victims of the attack, which were recovered from a ravine near the town of Argos in southern Greece, have been brought to Athens for a post mortem examination before being sent to the US for burial.

Their names were given as Mr Alberto Ospino, aged 39, from Stratford, Connecticut, a US citizen born in Colombia; Mrs Dimitra Stylianopoulos, aged 52, and her daughter, Mrs Maria Klug, aged 25, both with dual American and Greek citizenship; and the latter's 8-month-old daughter Dimitra, all from Annapolis, Maryland.

From Mohn Ali, Washington

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, in a television interview on Thursday night, blamed two Palestinian guerrilla groups for the TWA bombing.

Mr Peres said that a claim of responsibility by a group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Cells was an attempted cover-up.

From what he knew, the group which had carried out the bombing and the Gulf of Sirte incident. "I think they had planned it even before this."

CAIRO: The Egyptian authorities confirmed yesterday that an Arab woman named Mansour boarded the TWA aircraft in Cairo on Wednesday, but disputed Italian claims that she may have been carrying a bomb (a Correspondent writes).

Peres blames two PLO factions

Kyprianou doubts on UN plan

Run for peace

Cohn sued

Barge sunk

Bonner return

Killer holds woman hostage

Chicago (UPI) — A gunman who killed his landlord and a policeman and then took an elderly woman hostage played a "waiting game" with police here, saying he would not consider surrendering until after he had watched the film *Battle of the Bulge* on television.

Police said that John Pasch, aged 57, who was behind on his rent, opened fire from his apartment window, killing the landlord and then a policeman who tried to help the landlord. He then darted next door and took the woman hostage.

It appeared that the gunman had not injured his hostage, whose sister was believed to have fled unharmed out the front door of the building when he invaded through the back. But he apparently shot dead two dogs.

The gunman, an unemployed machinist, was described by police as paranoid. "He thinks the house is bugged and that we have infra-red beams aimed at him." He fired more than 30 shots at police as they tried to negotiate his surrender by telephone.

Judges sacked for drinking

Abidjan (Reuters) — Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defence Council has removed top judges from office for corruption, drunkenness and incompetence. Accra radio said it had also dissolved the Judicial Council.

Two High Court judges and a Circuit Court judge were dismissed for being cited in numerous fraud cases and two other judges were sacked for persistent drunkenness.

Palace strike

Helsinki (Reuters) — The Finnish presidential palace has been shut by a strike that has forced President Koivisto into suburban premises. Staff walked out, demanding pay rises of up to 20 per cent.

Spain refuses

Madrid (Reuters) — Spain has refused political asylum to Manuel Antonio Sanchez Perez, a former Cuban official accused by Havana of trying to embezzle public money.

Fatal slide

Albertville, France (AP) — Four people, all members of the same family, died in the French Alps when a large chunk of rock slid down the mountainside and crushed their car.

Crime family

Boston (AFP) — A court here sentenced a Mafia leader, Gennaro d'Angiulo, aged 67, to 45 years in prison and fined him \$120,000 (about £80,000) for organizing illegal gambling dens. Three of his brothers were given prison terms ranging up to 25 years.

Bomb reward

Melbourne (AP) — Victoria has raised its reward for the capture of the car bomber of a Melbourne police station to nearly £250,000 in an attempt to find new leads on the terrorist-style attack on March 27 that injured 21 people, 11 of them police officers.

Run for peace

New York (AP) — An opportunity to carry the torch during what is being called the first Earth run for peace is being offered to the public at a charge of \$500 (about £330) a kilometre. The run around the world begins here in September when the torch will be lit at the UN.

Ortega's warning of war with US

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — President Ortega of Nicaragua has said that increasing American support for the Contras fighting his Government could lead to war between Nicaragua and the US.

Speaking by telephone from Managua to Radio America in Tegucigalpa this week, Señor Ortega said Nicaraguans bore no ill-feelings towards Honduras, which allows some 12,000 Contras to maintain bases here.

"I do not believe war between Nicaragua and Honduras will ever break out, but what could begin is a war between Nicaragua and the United States," he said.

He expressed "once again the position of peace and friendship" which Nicaragua holds towards the people and Government of Honduras.

Last week about 800 Nicaraguan troops were reported to have crossed the border in a raid against Contra camps.

Reagan Administration officials claimed that a Sandinista force of 1,500 troops had invaded Honduras and immediately sent \$20 million (£13 million) in military aid to the Honduran Government. US helicopters also ferried Honduran troops to the border.

Señor Ortega repeated that his army was trying to thwart an offensive planned by the Contras. He said there had been heavy fighting in the region in the past few weeks.

Behind the struggle, page 8

Briton's Muslim mediator

Sidon (Reuters) — A Sunni Muslim militia leader, Mr Mustafa Saad, said yesterday he was helping to win freedom for the kidnapped British journalist Mr Alec Collett.

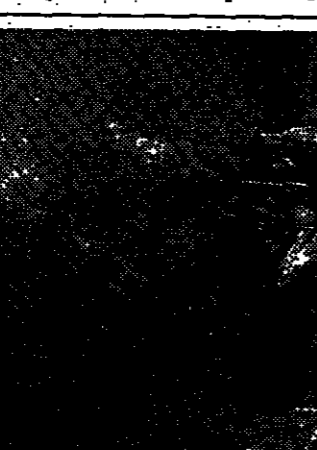
"I have become a mediator in the Collett case because it is a purely humanitarian issue and because Collett's health is in danger," Mr Saad said after talking to Sir John Gray, the British Ambassador in Beirut.

"We are seeking earnestly to achieve positive results," said Mr Saad, chief of the Popular Liberation Army militia that dominates Sidon.

Mr Collett, aged 65, was seized by gunmen near Beirut a year ago while on a writing assignment for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees.

Mr Saad said he also discussed with Sir John the disappearance in Beirut last week of the British teachers Mr Leigh Douglas and Mr Philip Padfield. There has been no word of them since they left a night club to walk home late last Friday. British diplomats fear they have been kidnapped.

The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims that holds Mr Collett, a diabetic, said last week it had asked Mr Saad to pass its conditions for his release to Sir John.



A Shia Arab fighter firing grenades into Palestinian camps in Beirut yesterday. Recent clashes have killed 30 people.

American briefing lifts Israel's peace hopes

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, returned home yesterday from a brief visit to the United States, cautiously optimistic after his talks with American officials that prospects for renewing the stalled Middle East peace process "may be slightly better than meets the eye."

"I believe that the US Secretary of State can help to move forward the existing negotiations as well as aid in the search for additional openings," Mr Peres said. He added that the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, would be looking for an opportunity to visit the region.

Mr Peres, who is riding an unprecedented wave of popularity at the moment, with the latest poll in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* finding that 74 per cent of those asked approved of his performance as Prime Minister, dismissed criticism of his visit which, he said,

would "contribute greatly to Israel's economy".

Reports reaching here from Washington during the visit indicated that he received a sympathetic hearing on Israel's economic needs. One direct economic result of the trip will be the release in the coming days of \$375 million (£250 million) in US emergency aid, half of the \$750 million extra aid earmarked for Israel during the current fiscal year.

Mr Peres also said earlier yesterday that he had received a "very serious, very positive response" to his idea for a \$25 billion "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East, under which the US and other Western industrialized nations would set up a fund to support poor Western countries in the Middle East whose regimes might be endangered over the next decade by upheavals in the region because of the drastic fall in oil prices.

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A new round of indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan is to take place in Geneva next month, signalling a breakthrough in the Afghan peace process.

Waldheim scorns poll smear

Linz, Austria (Reuters) — Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN secretary-general, said here today that allegations that he had belonged to Nazi groups or taken part in war crimes by Hitler's army in the Balkans had collapsed "like a pack of cards".

It was his first press conference since the storm broke a month ago. The charges were the result of a smear campaign against his candidacy in the Austrian presidential election on May 4, he said. But later, in an interview with Reuters, Dr Waldheim said he had accepted invitations to join the activities of a Nazi student corps and a Nazi student group before the war in order to help "complete his studies".

"I had a lot of trouble in finishing my studies," he said. "So I said to myself, I can participate, and that would keep me there without being suspicious in their eyes. I can't do any harm. And so I participated."

He denied deliberately omitting from his curriculum vitae the years he served in the Balkans under Nazi General Alexander Lohr, who was executed for war crimes.

Second Nevada test will kill moratorium

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is planning to conduct another underground nuclear weapons test in Nevada next week, almost certainly spelling the end of the Soviet Union's eight-month moratorium on its own testing.

President Reagan's determination to press on with the programme has been dramatically emphasized in a new request to Congress for a \$1.9 billion (£1.3 billion) programme to upgrade the Nevada test site over a period of years, to "maintain and improve" weapons for the nuclear stockpile.

The precise nature of the test expected next week is secret, but Capitol Hill sources said in general terms that it would test the effects of a nuclear explosion on weapons.

Warheads for the MX intercontinental missile and Trident II submarine-launched missile will probably be among the items exposed to radiation to test how they might survive radiation given off by interceptors in the new Soviet anti-ballistic missile system.

Optimism on summit

Moscow — Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, has emphasized that he is prepared to go to Washington for the next summit with President Reagan without preconditions, according to a visiting US politician (A Correspondent writes).

Mr Dante Fascell, a Republican Congressman, who has been meeting Soviet officials here for the past week, told a press conference yesterday that Mr Gorbachev seemed confident that a meeting would take place.

But Mr Fascell, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, said he had no idea when Mr Gorbachev would go to Washington.

He confirmed reports that Afghanistan had handed him a timetable for Soviet withdrawal which Pakistan saw as a basis for further negotiations.

But the drafting of the agreement on all aspects of a settlement was ultimately up to him, he said. Since 1982 the proximity talks have been under UN auspices, and it has secured broad agreement on three issues: an end to outside interference on both sides, the return of refugees, and international guarantees of a settlement by Moscow and Washington.

As well as proving to Moscow the hard way that Afghanistan is unconquerable, the invasion has been a diplomatic albatross, causing incalculable damage to Soviet relations with the Third World.

Kyprianou doubts on UN plan

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Kyprianou of Cyprus is due in London tomorrow for talks with Mrs Thatcher on the latest United Nations plan to reunite the divided eastern Mediterranean island.

He is expected to tell the Prime Minister on Monday afternoon that the Greek Cypriots have strong reservations about aspects of the plan, particularly those dealing with the withdrawal of Turkish troops from northern Cyprus, the guarantees for a settlement and the freedom to move, settle and own property throughout the island.

The new plan, the third since Señor Javier Peres de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, launched his settlement initiative in 1984, was presented to the Greek and Turkish Cypriots on Saturday. They have until April 21 to respond.

President Kyprianou discussed the latest plan with Mr Andreas Pappadreu, the Greek Prime Minister, in Athens earlier this week. Mr Pappadreu is understood to share the Greek-Cypriot leader's reservations. They are due to meet again on April 16.

Britain, which has residual responsibilities towards Cyprus as a guarantor power, is anxious to see a settlement of the long-running problem, which has provoked serious tensions between two members of Nato, Greece and Turkey.

So are the Americans. Both are understood to be backing the latest UN initiative.

Greece and the Greek-Cypriots are concerned that they may forfeit British and American support if they reject the latest UN proposals.

But it would be politically impossible for them to accept a deal that does not contain a clear timetable for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island.

According to reports in the Greek-Cypriot press, the new plan bears many similarities to the earlier plans submitted in January and April last year.

Private burial for dissident Iran ayatollah

Ayatollah Muhammad Kazem Shariat-Madari, who died in a private hospital in Tehran on Thursday, is expected to be given a private burial today in the holy city of Qom, where he had lived and taught since 1974 (Hazhir Teimourian writes). He had been suffering from cancer.

According to his family, he was offered a permit to seek treatment abroad, but refused, saying he wished to die among his followers. Since December 1979, when moderate Shia rose in his support and took over Tabriz, the capital of Azerbaijan, for two days, he had been under house arrest and was forbidden to receive his followers.

Lisbon budget amended by Opposition

Lisbon — The final version of Portugal's 1986 budget was passed by Parliament yesterday morning after discussions which lasted all night (Martha de la Cal writes).

Only the Communists voted against, but several important changes were made to the budget by the Opposition parties — the Socialists, Communists and Democratic Renewal Party — from the original presented by the minority Government of the Social Democrat Prime Minister, Senhor Cavaco Silva.

The Social Democrats hold only 88 of the 250 seats in Parliament and getting the budget passed without too many changes represented a test of strength.

Kabul softening raises peace hopes

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A new round of indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan is to take place in Geneva next month, signalling a breakthrough in the Afghan peace process.

The United Nations announcement comes after a pledge by Kabul to negotiate without preconditions the crucial issue of Soviet withdrawal.

Señor Diego Cordovez, the UN mediator, said the impasse over how to conduct negotiations on withdrawal of Soviet troops had been overcome, and the format of the previous six rounds of talks would be pursued.

Since Afghanistan had been insisting on direct talks with Pakistan on a time frame for the withdrawal, the agreement

over a timetable, the diplomats said, the question remained whether Moscow's interests in having a compliant regime in Kabul after a settlement could be reconciled with American insistence on a neutral Afghanistan.

Political and military analysts pointed out that stability after the withdrawal seemed impossible, given the military and emotional investment of the mujahidin.

Nevertheless, Señor Cordovez said the break in the deadlock over the format, which had stalled the Geneva talks for almost a year, showed that the political will needed for a settlement was very much in evidence.

He said sceptics would be forced to reassess their views or be accused of "sour grapes".

Aquino takes up offer of dialogue with communists

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippines Government emissary, to be chosen by President Aquino, will begin "in a few days" exploratory ceasefire talks with leaders of the country's 17-year-old communist insurgency, a palace spokesman said yesterday.

"We still have to name the emissary and agree on the time and place for the dialogue", Mrs Aquino's spokesman, Mr Rene Saguisag, said. "But I hope we can get things going in a few days."

The presidential palace announcement came just hours after it received a two-page statement from the National Democratic Front (NDF), a left-wing umbrella group, declaring its readiness to begin a preliminary dialogue on ceasefire terms.

The statement was the same document earlier sent to news agencies and journalists after a secret meeting on Manila's northern outskirts on March 24 between a ranking NDF leader, Mr Antonio Zumel, and local reporters.

Membership of the NDF includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army.

In a follow-up communiqué 10 days ago, Mr Zumel complained that "until now, no approaches, formal or informal, direct or indirect, have been made by the government", and repeated the Front's unprecedented peace offer. But Mr Saguisag complained that until Thursday morning, when the NDF's proposal arrived in the mail, the Government had received no formal communiqué, and therefore could not officially act on the peace talks proposal.

In line with her election campaign pledge, Mrs Aquino last month called on the rebels to lay down their arms and join her in national reconciliation efforts.

Despite the peace overtures, the estimated 16,000 guerrillas had continued operations nationwide with over 360 people killed in clashes with government troops during the five weeks Mrs Aquino has been in power.

Although the communists listed no conditions for the preliminary ceasefire talks, Mr Saguisag said long-standing Communist demands for the dismantling of US military bases in the country could not be part of the negotiations.

He said the Aquino Government is committed to honour its agreement with Washington, which allows the bases to remain in the country until 1991. Mrs Aquino has said she is keeping her "options open" after that date.

The rebels also are unlikely to surrender their weapons and would like to see the replacement of the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, and the Armed Forces chief, General Fidel Ramos.

The communists remain suspicious of both men, despite their leadership of the military revolt, because of their long association with the discredited Marcos regime.

US will help find Duvalier fortune

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) — The US Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Mr Elliot Abrams, yesterday offered American help to Haiti in its efforts to recover ex-President Jean-Claude Duvalier's fortune.

"We want to and we will help in every way we can," he said at the end of a fact-finding trip.

He said Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, president of the interim National Council, had been very clear about the Government's desire to get the money back.

But Mr Abrams said that tracing and recovering the Duvalier money would be harder than finding that of former President Marcos of the Philippines because the US had access to some of Mr Marcos's documentation, but not to that of Mr Duvalier.

Several foreign law firms have offered the Haitian Government their services in tracing and recovering the vast amount of money alleged to have been embezzled by Mr Duvalier, who was toppled in February, and by his father and predecessor, Francois Duvalier.

Mr Abrams said he had come on a two-day, fact-finding visit "to see first-hand what has been accomplished to date", and to meet and review with Haiti's new leaders all that country's needs.

He said Haiti's new leaders needed a modernized and professional "new military to maintain order". He said he would recommend the granting of American aid to train Haitian forces.

Praising the revolution which ousted Jean-Claude Duvalier, Mr Abrams said: "It will take time to create a new system of government and repair the damage of 29 years of despotic rule."

He added: "A lasting democracy in which elections are meaningful must rest upon a firm foundation." Respect for human rights, free trade unions and freedom of the press were essential ingredients, he said.

The US had already provided nearly \$60 million (£40 million) this fiscal year, including an emergency shipment of wheat last month and another shipment of wheat and oil which Mr Abrams said was "on the way".



A chemist in Milan analysing Barbera wine for its methyl alcohol content. Fifteen people have died in northern Italy in the past three weeks after drinking contaminated wine.

Italy's alcohol scandal

From John Earle, Rome

Italian inspectors have discovered a distillery of methyl alcohol with a store of 361 tonnes apparently available for distribution to the wine-making industry, Signor Costante Dezan, the Health Minister, told the Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

He was replying to questions on the adulteration of wine which has so far led to 15 deaths and the arrest of six people: four allegedly involved in the distillery and two wholesalers.

He and the Minister of Agriculture, Signor Filippo Pandolfi, defended the work of their ministries, saying 240,000 hectolitres of adulterated wine had been seized. Out of 1,103 samples of wine examined, 7 per cent contained methyl alcohol above the permitted level.

The two ministers rejected calls for their resignation from the small opposition Radical Party. But they admitted that a severe blow had been dealt to an important centre of Italian agriculture. Reports from Bonn say that West Germany has imposed a ban on Italian wine imports.

The official Italian gazette has decreed that wine producers must attach to each consignment a certificate of its chemical content.

The Government has named 31 firms whose products the public is advised to avoid. Four of these are under judicial investigation, while analysis of the products of 11 others shows a higher chemical content than permitted by law. The products of the rest are still being analysed.

But the authorities cannot yet claim that the situation is under control for in 24 hours 16 people have been taken to hospital in the north of Italy.

On paper the consumer is well protected. Signor Pandolfi told Parliament that the maximum amount of methyl alcohol permitted in Italy is lower than that allowed in France.

● **BERNE:** Swiss authorities have seized 40,000 litres of Italian wine containing high levels of methyl alcohol, the federal health office said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The Barbera wine was impounded in the canton of Ticino after it came across the border from Italy by train.

Swiss customs officials have been ordered to notify cantonal authorities of any imports from the Piedmont region.

Wine dope distillery found

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Italy recently blocked attempts by the EEC to ensure detailed wine labelling which might have avoided the deaths of Italians who drank adulterated wine, according to a British Conservative MEP.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott said the EEC was now moving to clamp down on wine producers who used cheap additives. But such proposals had been put forward in 1983, and action should have been taken last autumn to ensure proper labelling when an anti-freeze ingredient was found in Austrian wines.

Mr McMillan-Scott said the food institute at Zeist in The Netherlands had told him it was willing to test all EEC wines for dangerous substances at minimal cost.

But at a meeting of an EEC working group on the labelling of alcohol held on March 5 this year the Italians had blocked agreement, arguing that no decisions could be adopted until the EEC had agreed on definitions of all ingredients.

Mr McMillan-Scott last November called for action over the Austrian scandal in the European Parliament and has tabled a resolution calling for all EEC wine labels to state clearly the country of origin, alcoholic strength and all additives.

Present EEC law allows the following additives: potassium tartrate, potassium bicarbonate and calcium carbonate (north European wines), tartaric acid (Mediterranean wines), sugar (French wines), grape must (Italian wines), and in all cases sulphur, sorbic acid, diammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate, thiamin hydrochloride, citric acid, potassium bitartrate, tannin, copper sulphate and carbon dioxide.

Labelling move blocked in EEC

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Railway employees at one of Madrid's main stations fled in panic as passengers, angered by delays to services, wrecked the station's installations and damaging carriages and other equipment.

Police used riot control equipment to end the disturbance at Atocha station which lasted about two hours on Thursday night. Three people were arrested. Train services scheduled for Atocha were rerouted to the other principal Madrid station, Chamartin.

The trouble began when commuter passengers on a train which had already been delayed were told to get off and board another train which was then also delayed. Rail commuters had already been subjected to several weeks of intermittent work stoppages by national rail employees lasting between two and 24 hours.

A railway spokesman said considerable damage was done. Windows and furniture were broken, arrival and departure screens shattered and control equipment at a switching tower wrecked. The commuters also pushed luggage trolleys on to the tracks to block other trains and vandalized the interior of railway carriages.

The line affected by the delay connects the centre of Madrid with several towns to the south of the capital many of whose residents make up much of the city's labour force. Repeated delays on the same line last summer led to demonstrations by passengers and sit-ins.

Patient gets wrong heart

St Louis (AP) — A donor heart delivered to St Louis by US Air Force jet fighter has been implanted in a Missouri man whose body was rejecting an earlier transplant that did not match his blood type.

A spokesman at Barnes Hospital here said the 47-year-old patient was in critical condition in intensive care after undergoing his second transplant in less than two weeks. His name is not being disclosed.

The patient had been in serious but stable condition since he received a donor heart of the wrong blood type on March 21.

In the first transplant, a heart of blood type B was put in the patient, who has type A blood. The typing error was made at the Texas hospital where the donor heart came from, a spokesman said, refusing to identify the hospital.

The first transplant was almost completed when St Louis hospital officials learnt that the heart was from a person with a different blood type. Doctors had no choice but to complete the operation, the spokesman said.

Threat of Aids grows in Scandinavia

Oslo — Aids is spreading through Scandinavia at a rate comparable to the United States and other countries where the disease is considered a serious threat to public health, according to a Norwegian specialist (Tony Samstag writes).

Dr Stig Froeland, of the Rikshospitalet in Oslo, estimates that 2,000 Norwegians, a population of four million, have been infected by the HTLV-3 virus thought to cause Aids.

Although only 20 have developed the disease, the numbers are doubling every six months and Dr Froeland expects the total to reach at least 300 by 1990.

Paris refuses to reveal its hand over jailed agents

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Government says that it is "studying closely" the latest comments by Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, on the fate of the two French agents imprisoned for their part in the Greenpeace affair, and on New Zealand's "inimicable opposition" to the continuation of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

The new right-wing Government has made negotiations on the release of the two agents one of its priorities.

During his election campaign last month, M Jacques Chirac, the new French Prime Minister, said that if New Zealand did not exercise its right to grant an amnesty to the two officers, it would mean that it had "placed itself in the camp of the adversaries, even the enemies of France, and it must then draw the necessary consequences".

Mr John MacArthur, the New Zealand Ambassador to Paris, was called in for talks with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, M Jean-Bernard Raimond, within five days of the latter's appointment.

For the time being, however, the Government is declining to reveal its hand.

Asked in a French radio interview on Thursday what steps the Government was considering to put pressure on New Zealand, M Michel Noir, the Foreign Trade Minister, referred to the "discreet" measures already taken by the previous Government regarding restrictions on the importation of New Zealand sheep brains, wool and fish, but gave no hint of what further measures the new Government might have in mind.

M Edouard Leclerc, owner of one of the biggest French supermarket chains, announced earlier this week that he would no longer buy any products of New Zealand origin as long as the two French agents remained in prison in New Zealand, and called other supermarket chains to follow his example.

Captain Dominique Prieur and Major Alain Mafart, who were sentenced in October in New Zealand to ten years' imprisonment for their involvement in the sinking of the Greenpeace boat, Rainbow Warrior, have always been regarded here as two French officers who were simply carrying out orders and who should therefore never have been jailed.

Mr Lange is therefore "right to suspect that if the two agents were sent home, it would be to welcome rather than to serve the rest of their sentences in France, which he has made clear he could not accept."

Low-key NZ response on French pressures

From Richard Long, Wellington

The Government here deliberately responded in low key yesterday to comments by M Michel Noir, the French Foreign Trade Minister, about pressures that might be put on New Zealand over the Rainbow Warrior affair.

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, who has been sending feelers to Paris indicating that New Zealand would like to improve relations, refused to make any comment in reply. The Overseas Trade Minister, Mr Michael Moore, similarly declined to comment, beyond saying that New Zealand was taking action under GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) about French trade bans and customs delays, mainly in respect of the export of sheep brains and wool.

A European Commissioner, Mr Willy de Clercq, in New Zealand for talks, said that the EEC was already investigating apparent trade sanctions against New Zealand by the French.

"We are fact-finding," Mr de Clercq said. "We have asked the new (French) Government to give all the information we need to find what is really happening, not on the basis of press reports but of real facts. And we are expecting a clear stand from the French Government," he told a press conference.

But while Mr de Clercq was unwilling to express the Community's opposition in principle to trade sanctions, he did indicate that the Community would be unequivocal about France's obligations under GATT.

"We were asked by the New Zealand Government to enter into discussions within the framework of GATT. We are contacted, we belong to the GATT system. We believe it should strengthen the system," he said.

Girl hurt by shell 'critical'

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The six-year-old daughter of a British soldier was critically ill in a West German hospital yesterday after being hit in the head by shrapnel from an American army shell while walking near a Nato training area.

Emma Boughey, of Downend, Bristol, was walking at Munsterlager, near Hanover, on Thursday with her brother, sister, cousin and grandmother when shrapnel burst from a tree-top, showering the family.

Emma's brother Karl, aged 12, sister Sarah, aged 10, and cousin Philip Sinclair, aged 13, suffered slight injuries to their hands, legs and feet. The grandmother, Mrs Brenda Dawson, suffered shock.

West German soldiers gave them first aid and took them to a barracks where they were treated by an army doctor before being taken to a civilian hospital at Soltau. Emma was later transferred to a larger hospital in Hanover. Doctors performed an emergency operation.

A spokesman for the British Army of the Rhine said yesterday that the girl was "very seriously ill". Emma's father, Corporal Brent Boughey, is serving with the 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, REME, stationed at Munsterlager. Mrs Dawson was visiting the Boughey family with Philip during the British Easter school holidays. She was later released from hospital.

The shell was a 155mm howitzer type fired by a US artillery brigade from West Berlin.

Shuttle passenger knew of blast risk

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Senator Jake Garn, who flew on the shuttle Discovery in April 1985, has said that he was aware long before the fatal Challenger explosion earlier this year that any problems with booster rocket seals would result in catastrophe.

The Utah Republican Senator, answering questions on Thursday, said that he was "a little bit surprised" by testimony from astronauts who had told the presidential commission investigating the Challenger tragedy that they were unaware of such a potential for disaster.

A leaking seal in the right solid fuel booster rocket is the prime suspect for the explosion which destroyed the Challenger and killed its crew of seven soon after launch on January 28.

Senator Garn said that NASA never issued a specific warning about rocket seals, but he observed that "they certainly told me in my training as a lowly payload specialist that if there was a failure it likely would be in a (rocket) joint".

Chief astronaut John Young and other astronauts this week recommended to the commission that all shuttles land at Edwards Air Force Base, California, instead of the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, to reduce the risk of landing accidents.

Exam clashes lead to Bangladesh curfew

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

A curfew was clamped on the Bangladesh town of Magura after three people were killed and more than 55 injured in clashes between police and students on Thursday, officials said yesterday.

The trouble came only a day after another town, Sylhet, in northern Bangladesh, was also placed under curfew after clashes involving students.

The officials in Magura, about 150 miles west of Dhaka, said two of those killed in Thursday's clashes were students. Two policemen were still missing after the violence, during which police fired more than 100 rounds and used batons to disperse an angry crowd.

The town's chief administrator said the clashes started when police tried to stop people supplying answers to students during a graduation examination. A crowd attacked the police, burned government vehicles and ransacked the house of the police chief.

On Wednesday a curfew was imposed on Sylhet after students from a technical college clashed with residents. One person died. The curfew was relaxed yesterday.

● **Storm deaths:** At least 10 people were killed and 100 injured in a hailstorm that struck three districts of central Bangladesh on Thursday, according to press reports.

Pilot mistakes airport

Los Angeles (UPI) — Federal officials are trying to determine how a United Airlines Boeing 747 en route to International Airport almost made a potentially disastrous landing at the small Hawthorne airport, The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

The incident occurred last Thursday. The jet — its landing gear lowered and flaps down — skirted the Hawthorne runway before banking away from it sharply.

A jet the size of a 747 could not have landed safely at Hawthorne, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said.

Peking fear

Peking (Reuters) — The Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, has told President Radovan Vukobratovic of Yugoslavia that it would be a disaster for mankind if his country went capitalist or started threatening other nations.

Seoul President's UK visit key to co-operation

From David Watts, Seoul

When President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea arrives in Britain on Monday for the first visit by a Korean head of state he will be opening the way for what both countries see as a unique opportunity for industrial co-operation.

A series of unrelated factors coincides this year to give Seoul an opportunity to break out of its trade and technological dependence on Japan and the United States and to provide Britain with the chance of joining in South Korea's development as it rises to challenge Japanese dominance on world markets.

The Koreans have also made no secret of the fact that they want to diversify their areas dealing. They will be seeking some respository the country lacks, such as submarines.

"We are in great danger of making the same mistakes we did with Japan," according to a British diplomat. "The time to get alongside the Koreans by exploiting our technology and their productive genius is now. They have a great manufacturing base and we have difficulty in turning our research into finished products."

"They've had years of working with Japan, being controlled by their supply of parts and their technology, and they want to break away from that. If we cooperate with them now we won't have to worry about them 20 years from now. They're very determined people and they've got plans. If we don't get together with them and cooperate on technology they'll get the technology from somewhere else and beat us anyway."

The Koreans believe that there are many kinds of intermediate technology being discarded by Britain which can be taken up by South Korea's production facilities to put British-technology products into third markets it could not penetrate on its own because of high labour costs.

"Europe must look outside itself to cooperate with countries like South Korea," said Dr Suh Sang Mok, Vice President of the Korea Development Institute. "Korea is the perfect partner for European companies because of our capacity to absorb technology."

If co-operation, European firms can manufacture here at very low cost for China and penetrate the Japanese market, why not?

President Chun, who will be accompanied by his wife, Lee Soon Ja, takes with him to Britain representatives of virtually all the leading South Korean companies looking not only for technology but also for investment opportunities.

The high value of the yen is causing many South Korean firms to try to reduce their dependence on Japan for buying finished industrial equipment and increased technology for Korean exports, and to search for technologies which the Japanese have been unwilling to release.

But President Chun, aware that he still needs to persuade some South Koreans of the legitimacy of his rule, also seeks the cache of a visit to the mother of democracies.

The first South Korean leader to visit Britain in 100 years of diplomatic relations will undoubtedly impress some at home with his European tour, but probably not his most vociferous opponents.

South Korea's success cannot, however, be denied, and the fact that Britain can still join in the development of a country which is determined to emulate Japan in many fields offers a chance to regain a foothold in the East.

But distance does not mean that the relationship is completely free of difficulties, and the British side is hoping that the President will offer concessions on two important complaints about British exports of whisky and chocolates.

In spite of the liberalization of bulk grain and malt whisky imports in July 1984, South Korea is planning to ban such imports, from next year, in the case of grain imports, and in 1990 in the case of malt bulk. Malt imports are worth some \$2 million (£1.33 million) a year, but it is not the money so much as the emotional impact of blocking a unique British export.

South Korea has had a visible trade surplus with Britain every year since 1973, but the imbalance of more than \$360 million last year was largely offset by the surplus in invisible trade. Britain is South Korea's second largest European trading partner and its seventh largest world-wide. But, in terms of capital, Britain is Seoul's largest creditor world-wide, with loans totalling \$3,531 million up to the end of 1984.

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BEYOND THE PALE

The reshuffle of currencies taking place this weekend is an opportunity for Europe to step forward towards financial integration. It is the first major reorganisation in the European Monetary System for over three years.

The last such realignment, in March 1963, marked a turning point in the history of the EMS. In retrospect, this can be seen as the moment at which it became clear that the EMS had passed through the period in which it was merely a loose association of governments staggering from one realignment crisis to another every few months. It was on its way to maturity, creating a European island of currency stability in a world of increasingly volatile exchange rates.

Only the Italians, who in any case lie on the fringe of the EMS within wider margins of fluctuation, have had to adjust their EMS parities since 1963. This long period of exchange rate stability between the French franc and the German mark has confounded the pessimists, who argued that the EMS could never hold together such disparate economies. The EMS exerted a formidable discipline on the Socialist government that was in power in France until last month. It has actively helped the French to bring inflation down below the rate which the Conservative Government of Mrs Thatcher has achieved in Britain, which for six years has floated outside the EMS.

This delay in joining has gone on long enough. But yesterday official sources were still maintaining the Government's view that the time for membership is not "ripe". So the focus of this realignment is, yet again, the

core exchange rate between the German mark and French franc.

The EMS has not progressed towards the second stage of currency union envisaged by its idealistic founders; a failure for which the Germans and the French, as well as the reluctant British, all carry some responsibility. The existing EMS merely restrains currency movements. It does not obviate the need for them. It was, therefore, clear that the system would eventually have to allow some adjustment to exchange rates that would reflect the differences between France's modest economic reforms and West Germany's spectacular achievements. The West Germans have virtually stable prices (now rising a trivial 0.1 per cent a year).

The sensitive point of all EMS realignments is the extent to which they appear to devalue the French franc - something France's new right-wing Prime Minister, Monsieur Jacques Chirac, has spoken against with as much, if no more, conviction than his predecessors. Whether the realignment is presented as a plus for Germany or a minus for France depends largely on whether other EMS currencies choose to follow the French down or the Germans up. The essential element in any realignment, however, is that it should appear sufficiently radical to stand the test of time.

There is, however, a further hurdle that the French should strive to clear this time. The French Government has managed to hold its place within the EMS at least partly by maintaining a formidable network of exchange controls. Such controls vitiate the pur-

pose of the EMS, which is to integrate Europe's national monetary systems as an essential back-up for its efforts to create a single "common market" for trade.

The extent of exchange control maintained by the French is one of the British Government's standard ripostes to suggestions that the time has come for sterling to take its full place in the European Monetary System. The new French Government is committed to dismantling exchange controls, and seems to be prepared to begin the task as part and parcel of this realignment. The test of French conviction is the courage with which the government applies itself to the task.

Fortunately, domestic as well as international interests point in the same direction. M. Chirac's plans for floating state-owned enterprises into private hands will not be assisted by a system of exchange controls that will limit would-be purchasers; a danger the Government's financial advisers are aware of, even if the French are quite as chauvinistically resistant to the idea of foreign ownership as the British seem to be.

Perhaps M. Chirac should recall that the boldest act of deregulation performed by the Thatcher Government, on taking over from Britain's Socialists, was to close its ears to the cautions of the Bank of England and abolish exchange controls. If mere imitation does not appeal, there is the satisfaction of scotching British criticism. Who knows? Mrs Thatcher's Government may finally find itself deprived of excuses for remaining an EMS wallflower.

THE BISHOP AND THE CHIEF

Two contradictory signs emerged this week from the confusion that is South Africa. The first was Bishop Desmond Tutu's counsel of despair when the Nobel Laureate ended 18 months of painful equivocation to call openly for punitive economic sanctions against Pretoria.

However Christian the Bishop's motives, his call if heeded will lead only to further violence in a society in which the voice of peace is growing smaller and weaker.

Punitive sanctions applied by hostile foreign governments may ease the international itch to "do something" about South Africa. Within the country itself, however, their effect will be to play into the hands both of right-wing Afrikanerdom which needs little excuse to pull up the drawbridge and convert South Africa into a siege society, and of the hard left which sees even greater black poverty and unemployment coupled with the even greater use of repression in a garrison state as necessary preconditions for successful revolution.

It is indeed no coincidence that those black political factions which call most stridently for sanctions are also those which this week were conspicuous by their absence from the first true black-white negotiating forum to be established in South Africa - the so-called "Kwa Natal Indaba".

The Indaba (Zulu for conference) has arisen out of the

proposed joint executive for Natal and Kwa Zulu to be headed by Natal's Administrator, Mr Radclyffe Cadman and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the Bantustan which apartheid carved out of the Province with which it is inextricably linked.

The mini-constitutional conference attended by 31 black and white political groupings and interest groups is pursuing an ambitious goal - the creation of a democratically elected legislature for Natal and Kwa Zulu, a regional government which could be South Africa's first experiment in true power-sharing between white and black.

The concept has been a long time being born. First conceived in the Buthelezi's commissions report in 1962, it was initially repudiated by a Nationalist government determined to impose its own solution on South Africa. It is a sign of the rapidly changing times that this week Pretoria, through the National Party of Natal, sent a team of high-powered official observers to the Indaba which instead has been boycotted by the parties of the extreme right for whom power-sharing remains an anathema, and by the radical left which claims that any regional settlement defuses the struggle for control of the central levers of power. Which is precisely why it has a chance

- however faint - of succeeding where more grandiose negotiating proposals have so conspicuously failed.

As Professor Lawrence Schlemmer, a South African academic whose research institute was recently fire-bombed by anti-Indaba forces, has pointed out, the principle of local and regional options can provide a society as fraught as South Africa's with a flexibility to absorb the strains that can tear a fully centralized government apart.

If the Indaba succeeds it will mean universal participation in a provincial government which will have the power to promote equality of opportunity, integrate black and white in a common political community and bury apartheid. Most important, it could provide a constitutional model for the rest of South Africa, a living example of how to join together what apartheid has put asunder.

The Indaba has a long way to go before it formulates its proposals and even longer before these are accepted, either wholly or in part, by Pretoria. But it is the first real coming together of moderate forces in a deeply polarised society. It is the first sign of hope that those divisions may yet be bridged and it is a better recipe for peaceful, albeit profound, change than Bishop Tutu's prescription for further poverty, polarisation and distrust.

SECRETS IN THE BOTTLES

You can, in certain of the more discerning hypermarkets of northern France, buy bottles of Kentish wine. You have, admittedly, to stand on tiptoes and extend your neck with circus elasticity to see the labels on the topmost shelves in the vins fins aisle, but there it is. The fact that it's there is a credit to British viticulture. But of course it does not make the United Kingdom a wine-producer.

The nation is - the Dutch, Belgians and Danes hardly counting in terms of volume of consumption - the premier non-producing consumer of the fruit of the vine in the Common Market. And that gives Britain a certain detachment when it comes to battles over *Prüfungsnummer*, *dénominations d'origine contrôllées*, and the currently frenzied attempt by certain European viticulturalists to establish the good name of their product. We, having no agricultural adze to grind, can afford to

pick and choose. If the Austrians, or the Italians or the French try to poison us, we can and ought to shop around.

White wine, it seems, is especially susceptible to the doctors of *dosage*. Never mind that there is a tun more claret than the banks of the Garonne could ever produce; never mind where those Riojas get their oakiness from; never mind which animals are more intimately connected with that *esri bikaver* (bull's blood to non-Magyars). Despite the fate of those unfortunate Lombards who recently drank Italian bucket red, it is a problem of whites.

The issue arose with the benzines, sorry, the benign growths of Lower Austria and the relationship of some *Gewürtztraminer* to the fluid that makes the Audi in the adverts perform so well on the Alpine passes in winter. It (the anti-freeze that is) spilled over into West Germany. And those *Spätlese* turned out to

have derived more of their sweetness from the common or garden sugar lump than the noble rot.

The Consumers' Association yesterday advised a full measure of toper conservatism. Never open a bottle of white that cost less than £2.50, it said. But that is the coward's way out. The Spaniards have just joined the Common Market. They and the Portuguese promise great things of their lesser known vineyards - what do they know of Iberian wines who know only Vinho Verde and Jerez? But the CA's advice would take the mystery out of the business. The cork-screw turns in the £1.95 bottle, the cork slides out and - sulphur aroma say the pundits. But not necessarily. It could be apples, honey, or the tang of the hills. And the taste. Gluey and coarse say the CA's pundits. A little more of that Common Market sugar in the fermentation process, and it will all be sweetness and light.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fair competition in shipbuilding

From the Chairman of Swan Hunter Ltd
Sir, It is most regrettable that in your leader of April 1 you sought to link the award of a commercial contract to the political situation in Northern Ireland. A subsidy to Harland and Wolff of £37 million in the last 11 months can hardly be described as a Government withdrawal from the Province.

The issue we are fighting is for the assurance that Swan Hunter received before privatisation. The auxiliary oil replenishment vessel (AOR) order is by any description a large commercial and contractual risk.

With Harland and Wolff a prime supplier, the taxpayer is in effect taking the whole contractual and commercial risk. Harland and Wolff have made losses, before interest charges, of over £200 million, funded by the taxpayer, in the last five years.

It is stretching credulity to breaking point that if this order were awarded to them it would not similarly generate cross-subsidies from the other loss-funded contracts and a direct subsidy for any cost over-run on the AOR. These risks are exacerbated by the fact that Harland and Wolff have not built a ship for 20 years.

The statement that the initial price has been certified as being subsidy-free simply sidesteps the issue of the actual performance of the contract over the next three to four years.

Swan Hunter is the only UK company to have built a similar vessel to the AOR. If its contract over-runs on cost, beyond a small contingency, it will only have its

shareholders to turn to. That is the essence of privatisation. The whole of the Swan Hunter order book has been won in open competition.

In January, 1965, Swan Hunter won the competition for two type 22 frigates, but in the interests of Merseyside one of these vessels was diverted at a cost to the taxpayer of some £7 million. We are still waiting, some 15 months later, for the promised replacement order to materialise.

We have every sympathy with the present position in Northern Ireland but must point out that unemployment on Tyneside is now higher than in Belfast. It would be tragic indeed if further orders were diverted from Swan Hunter on anything other than overall commercial grounds.

We do not regard statements by accountants on the compilation of the initial price, with no awareness of what it takes to successfully complete a major capital project of this kind, being any indication of fair competition.

What is needed is an independent study by shipbuilders, perhaps the award to Belfast of another bulk carrier from a nationalised industry (where delivery time is not important) and some good sense to see that Europe's finest naval shipbuilder, Swan Hunter, does not suffer for political expediency.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. HARDY, Chairman,
Swan Hunter Limited,
WallSEND Shipyard,
PO Box 1,
WallSEND,
Tyne and Wear,
April 3.

What the public wants on BBC

From Mr M.H. Waley-Cohen
Sir, In one of your many wise leaders last year on the BBC you commented on the frequent inclination of the BBC to give the public what it thought the public should like rather than what the public actually wanted. I write to suggest that a thorough cleansing of the BBC in its sports reporting is now urgently needed before we get further into the summer.

Some typical bureaucrat has decided that a maximum of four races is all that shall be televised from one meeting in one day, despite the fact that Royal Ascot collects the finest horses in the world, all trying their utmost and with the optimum of supervision. It is sometimes beyond the capacity of the old and infirm, who have been going there all their adult lives, to get to Ascot.

Who is this governing bureaucrat to lay down the four-race rule? Surely the time has arrived to closely re-examine what the public wants and in exceptional cases allow the televising of a whole day's race programme.

An exactly similar situation on Wimbledon occurred in 1965. The first Monday was washed out by rain and play eventually started at approximately 5pm on the Tuesday, and by 7.30pm some very interesting matches were taking place, but some beastly little bureaucrat at the BBC decided that the next very dull part of the programme must be adhered to and the public deprived of these interesting Wimbledon matches, which only occupy one fortnight a year anyway. Exactly the same thing happened in one of the one-day cricket matches.

Surely the time has come for a very senior officer indeed, quite uncontaminated by the principle of only giving the public what the BBC thinks is good for them, to be in charge of sporting programmes and in touch with what the public is likely to really want, with complete discretion to postpone evening programmes if necessary either until a later date or a later hour.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. WALEY-COHEN,
Higher Thorne,
Exford,
Minehead,
Somerset,
March 24.

Radio franchise

From Professor Alan Thompson
Sir, Mr Norman Bilton (March 31), refers to the IBA's "intransigence" and "interference" over the Rank bid for Granada. When Parliament debated the setting up of the Independent Television Authority (which subsequently became the IBA) it was concerned to avoid the experience of American broadcasting, where federal supervision of quality of output and of advertising standards and timing was lamentably ineffective.

In establishing the IBA, Britain has secured an effective compromise between independent commercial broadcasting and a rigorous system of monitoring under parliamentary authority. Unless parliamentary opinion has changed since I was an MP (and I do not believe that it has) members of Parliament expect the IBA to be both intransigent and interfering in maintaining one of the most responsible systems of commercial broadcasting in the world.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh,
March 31.

Reagan continues to seek to subvert the Nicaraguan regime and to support the terrorist Contras with weapons of aggression (weapons for killing, not for defence) it is senseless and obscene to uphold the United States as the guardian of international morality.

Far from showing contempt for international norms of behaviour, Colonel Gaddafi seems to have done his utmost to follow them. It is the norms we must attack.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON EDGE,
St Catherine's College,
Cambridge,
March 26.

Fees for legal aid

From Mr Stanley Best
Sir, In your leading article (March 27) you rebuke the Lord Chancellor but conclude that he was justified in resisting a claim to put the fees of barristers dependent upon criminal legal aid work on a par with those employed in government service.

Is there any justification for saying that solicitors and barristers involved in legal aid work, whether civil or criminal, should be paid less than a sum which, taking into account the pension rights of Civil Servants, equates with what is paid to government-employed lawyers?

Surely legally aided persons are entitled to expect that those who often have to challenge, on their behalf, government departments are able to do so and are not left to live on a shoe-string?

The case now disposed of in the High Court leaves still to be resolved the totally inadequate fees paid to solicitors and barristers in relation to civil legal aid

matters, which touch a much wider section of the public than criminal legal aid.

On the one hand, the Lord Chancellor wants to restrict the scope of legal aid and the fees paid to lawyers but, on the other hand, cheerfully helps his own department and the Treasury by increasing the fees which have to be paid, for example, on the issue of a writ and now institutes a fee of £10 on the issue of every interlocutory summons in the High Court.

This is the true Catch-22 situation. Expenditure on legal aid will go up because these fees have to be paid by solicitors out of the Legal Aid Fund. The Lord Chancellor will then demand further restrictions on legal aid to take account of the inflated costs thereof which he has caused and in the result, solicitors and their clients will be worse off than ever.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BEST,
Midland Bank Chambers,
Torrington,
Devon,
March 27.

Hysteria on Aids

From the Director of the College of Health
Sir, Your report of a court being cleared because a couple "with Aids" were appearing before a magistrate (in some editions, March 21) shows just how vital it is for the public, and perhaps even more so the magistrate and the police, to be properly informed about the ways in which the HTLVIII virus, which causes Aids, can be transmitted.

The police and ushers were wearing plastic gloves, it is reported. The magistrate asked everyone "to leave the court unless they mind the risk of catching Aids".

The HTLVIII virus can only be transmitted from one person to another if it gets into the bloodstream. The most likely means of transmission are through sexual

intercourse or by transfusion with infected blood products, or the sharing of syringes.

There is no way in which anyone could be infected simply by being in the same courtroom. The wearing of plastic gloves is neither here nor there.

The College of Health has been running an Aids telephone information service since December last year and has played tapes to many thousands of people which have helped to allay unnecessary hysteria and to give sound advice on reducing the risk of catching it to those who are genuinely at risk. Perhaps they should be made required listening for magistrates, who ought to know better.

Yours sincerely,
MARIANNE BIGGIE,
Director, College of Health,
18 Victoria Park Square,
Bethnal Green, E2.

Ordination of women

From the Reverend Henry Pearson
Sir, In using Article XXXIV in the Book of Common Prayer to support his view that no woman should be consecrated bishop and therefore be able to participate in the 1988 Lambeth Conference, the Bishop of London (March 27) really is clutching at straws. Besides treating the article in a completely literalistic way, he is in danger of being accused of inconsistency on the application of the 39 Articles of Religion in the life of the Church of England today.

For example, as a prominent Anglo-Catholic, what would he make of Article XXVIII: "The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped?"

Let us be honest about this. No longer can the 39 Articles be used in their present form in reference to the exercising of authority in the Anglican Communion today.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PEARSON,
The Vicarage,
34 Gracechurch Street,
Debenham,
Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Taken as read

From Dr. R. P. van den Brink-Budgen
Sir, The decline of the book may be more advanced than many of us already feared. In giving a justification for staying up unsociably late to watch *Catch-22* on the television, my son has explained that the novel is on his A-level reading list. The paperback original, meanwhile, sits undisturbed upon the shelf.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. van den BRINK-BUDGEN,
27A, Warrington Road,
Ipswich,
Suffolk,
March 28.

Norms of behaviour

From Mr Simon Edge
Sir, In your leading article of March 26 you describe "the utter contempt for international norms of behaviour" which Libya has displayed. "It has invaded neighbouring countries, sought to subvert others, sponsored assassinations of exiles abroad and given support, training and sanctuary to terrorist groups". With the (possible) exclusion of the third accusation, this seems a remarkably apt description of United States foreign policy.

It is very proper to condemn Libyan crimes, but so long as Mr

Ministers' shares
From Mr. N. J. Robson
Sir, Mrs Thatcher, our Prime Minister, declares that she has scrupulously observed the long-standing convention governing the holding of shares by ministers. I have no doubt that this is true.

However, the more important issue is whether this long-standing convention is still valid in the world of today. For how long has this convention been in existence? Should it be revised? Is our Prime Minister really claiming that something that has been valid for many years has to be suitable today?

The City of London is about to embark on a system of belief in Chinese walls, so called: these may or may not work. What is clear is that it is preferable to avoid the need for such walls. If all ministers were required to appoint trustees for their private investments, that sensibly avoids the need for one of these walls.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. ROBSON,
5-10 Bury Street, EC3,
March 26.

Restoring Parthenon

From the Ephor of Antiquities, Acropolis Museum
Sir, I refer to the article by Mario Modiano "Jigsaw operation to rebuild the decaying Parthenon", which together with a picture of the Parthenon with crane, was published in *The Times* of January 29.

The Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments has asked me to explain that the works mentioned in the article are not the final decisions but proposals submitted by the supervising architect, Mr Manolis Korres.

These proposals will be discussed at the next international conference on conservation and will then be submitted to the Greek Archaeological Council for approval.

Yours faithfully,
EVI TOULOUPA,
Ephor of Antiquities,
Director's Office,
Acropolis Museum,
Athens,
Greece.

THE TIMES ON THIS DAY

APRIL 5 1968

At Memphis on April 3, in his last public speech, Martin Luther King referred to threats on his life concluding, "... But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you... Well I'm happy tonight... I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." In March, 1969 James Earl Ray was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment for the murder of Dr King.

Martin Luther King assassinated

From EARL CALDWELL - MEMPHIS, April 5
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Nobel peace prize civil rights leader, was shot fatally here to-night while leaving over a first-floor balcony outside his hotel room. The 39-year-old Negro leader's death was reported by Mr. Frank Holloman, director of Memphis police and fire departments, after he had been taken to St. Joseph's Hospital...

Huge crowd
Dr. King had been bleeding profusely from what appeared to be a huge wound in the right jaw or neck area as he lay face up on the concrete walkway before he was taken away in a fire department ambulance.

His eyes appeared first half-closed and then open but staring. One of his closest aides, Mr. James Bevel, grief-stricken, said after Dr. King was removed: "I think he's gone."

Dr. King had come back to Memphis yesterday morning to organize support once again for 1,300 dusters who have been on strike since the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday. Just a week ago he led a march on behalf of the strikers that ended in violence with a 16-year-old Negro killed, 62 persons injured and 200 arrested...

Police poured into the area around the Lorraine Motel in Midway Street where Dr. King was shot. They carried shotguns and rifles and sealed off the block, refusing to allow entry to newsmen and others.

"That's my man!"
Dr. King had been in his first-floor room - No. 306 - throughout the day until just about 6 p.m.

Then he emerged, wearing a black suit and white shirt. He paused, leaned over the green iron railings, and started chatting with an associate, Mr. Jesse Jackson, who was standing just below him.

Mr. Jackson introduced him to Mr. Ben Branch, a musician who was to play at a rally Dr. King was to address two hours later. As Mr. Jackson and Mr. Branch spoke of Dr. King's last moments later, the aide asked Dr. King: "Do you know Ben?"

"Yes, that's my man!" Dr. King glowed.

"They said that Dr. King then asked if Branch would play a spiritual, 'Precious Lord, take my hand', at the night meeting. 'I really want you to play that tonight', Dr. King said...

A member of the King group, the Rev. Samuel Kyle, of Memphis, said Dr. King "had stood there about three minutes".

The Rev. Ralph W. Abernathy, perhaps Dr. King's closest friend, was just about to come out of the room. A sudden loud noise burst out. Dr. King toppled to the concrete passageway floor and blood began gushing from a wound. Someone rushed up with a towel to staunch the flow of blood. A blanket was placed over him.

Mr. Abernathy hurried down with a second larger towel. And then the aides waited, while police rushed up within minutes and in what seemed to be a long 10 or 15 minutes an ambulance finally arrived.

"He had just bent over", Mr. Jackson recalled later. "If he had been standing up, he wouldn't have been hit in the face..."
New York Times News Service.

Election expenses

From Mr. Stephen Kramer
Sir, Your report today (March 28) makes it clear that according to Mr Norman Tebbit (than whom - one supposes - there can almost be no greater authority) "the campaign has already started" for the most sophisticated high technology election campaign ever to be fought in Britain.

If before his pronouncement, Mr Tebbit was unaware of the criterion for the commencement of election expenses, doubtless since then his legal advisers and colleagues have enlightened him.

Can we now expect Mr Tebbit and all Conservative prospective candidates to declare on their returns at the appropriate time after the next general election, every expense from March 27, 1968?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN KRAMER,
10 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

Exit a bear

From Mr H. Holland-Jones
Sir, In reply to your correspondent at the beginning of March this year...

"What happens when March comes in like a polar bear?" Well, now we know! It goes out like a polar bear too!
Yours sincerely,
H. HOLLAND-JONES,
Bronze - Graig,
Ffestiniog,
Gwynedd.

Radio eyes have

April 5-11, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts



Tackling a fence in last year's National: 'You know immediately whether the horse has gone over the top, whether the build up has sent him over and he's bottled out... or whether he's revving and going for it.'

How we beat the odds at Aintree



Last Suspect nearly didn't run in last year's Grand National. In what was supposed to be his last warm-up race, at Warwick, he ran badly, lost interest and failed to finish. That was enough for his trainer, Tim Forster, and owner, Anne Duchess of Westminster. They took very little time to decide that there was no point in running him in the most testing race of all.

I thought he had a very good each-way chance. He'd never fallen in his life, he'd never unseated a jockey. He'd proved he was a sound jumper and I knew he was a dour stayer and would last the 4 1/2 miles. But I didn't think he quite had the speed.

In the hour before the race I had a cup of tea and tried to compose myself. I was thinking about how to place him at all the fences. I didn't want him to make a mistake on the first circuit, because I knew that would put him off. The first circuit is a survival test anyway, and what I wanted was to make sure he kept out of trouble, jumped cleanly and enjoyed the race. For Old Sus it was very important that he enjoyed it. If he got sulky, he'd start putting the brakes on and dropping himself out. And once he's decided he's going to stop there's nothing you can do.

The National's different from any other race. The camaraderie is very close in the weighing room beforehand, everyone wishing everyone else good luck, building up each other's confidence. But when you get down to the start everyone's under a lot of pressure and there's excitement and apprehension. I didn't feel nervous at all until I was at the start. Then I got very keyed up. You've been waiting and building up and you just want to get on with it. I was sweating freely from the nerves and the tension, soaking wet.

I'm not thinking about winning at all. The chances of getting round are slim enough, so winning is unreal. You don't even think of it. I'm just thinking about getting round, negotiating all those fences, going into the land of the unknown. Last Suspect hadn't been there before. I was gambling on that. I hoped it would get him interested, get his blood up, so that he would forget his roguishness and get the best out of himself. I knew exactly where I

wanted to be at more or less every fence. I'd decided to go round the outside. It's not that he gets upset if there are too many horses round him, but he would resent getting bumped around. He's concentrating, so when he starts getting knocked off his balance it unnerves him. He's a bit of a freak, and it would take him a long time to settle down again.

When you're lining up for the start there seems to be so much room. But once the gate goes up there are horses everywhere. You're looking to try to move, to look for a gap, trying to get a good sighting at the first fence. You have a flash of seeing it and then you get blinded and then you have a flash of it again. You're trying to concentrate on measuring your stride and there are horses crossing in front of you. It's not easy.

So you've got to drive, drive, drive and keep the speed up. Otherwise they haven't got the impulsion to get over it. The danger is that they land on top of it. I felt Sus drop a bit when he caught sight of it - it was the biggest fence he'd ever seen. And it was a bit unnerving for him. He did have a real long look at it. So I kept on driving and he jumped it big and well.

Then two plain fences and down to Becher's Brook. All the jockeys are shouting at each other 'good luck' and 'see you on the other side'. Becher's is phenomenal. From the take-off side it looks a perfectly normal fence. Horses that have never jumped it before don't know there's a big drop the other side and they jump it just like any other fence. Halfway over they realize and they just kind

close I was. I was quite surprised. I gave him a real big kick on the fence before the Chair. I wanted him to fly over so that he'd do the same over the next. The Chair is a daunting fence, but he met it spot on, ran right up to the take-off board, got plenty of height and jumped it beautifully.

By the time I jumped the water (the last jump on the first circuit) I was lying third or fourth. But I still wasn't thinking about winning or anything. I've seen horses start to back up once they've crossed the Melling Road and realize they're going out to do the same circuit again. That was my most worrying time, going across the Melling Road the second time. That's when I thought he might lose interest and say to himself 'I've done this one. I don't want to do it again'.

He jumped the first one well and then started to swish his tail, which is usually a sign that a horse has had enough. But Last Suspect is quite a peculiar horse, and I think in his case it was more nerves than resentment. Anyway he jumped the next few fences well and he absolutely flew Becher's second time around.

Even after that, I was never thinking 'my God, we've got a winning chance'. I just thought 'hey, we've got a great chance of getting round, unless something dreadful happens'. I got a bit of a bump at the Canal Turn the second time and it unnerved him. He immediately started to throw in the towel. So I drove him into Valentine's, which he flew, jumped it even better than the first time, and then he was back in the hunt.

He was fine until he came to the third last, when he dropped his hind legs on the fence. But that was my fault. I tried to shorten him, and I should have allowed him to run and jump the fence. As we landed I was saying to myself 'Oh you idiot'. I thought I'd finished his chances.

I came into the straight and suddenly realized there were only two fences to jump. I looked to see how many horses were in front of me. I saw the two leaders going away. Corbiere and Mr

Snugfit, and I looked to my left and Greasepaint was there, but under pressure, and I thought 'I'm going to be third, third in the Grand National. Fantastic'.

He met the second last wrong again, and I blame myself a little bit. But he jumped it carefully, though he lost a length. By this stage the other two were going away from me. I just kept working. He flew the last fence and landed running, and then I suddenly realized 'My God I could be second' because I could see Corbiere was tiring. His head was on one side.

By then I was so hyped, I didn't notice how tired I was. I started driving and driving and gave him a few smacks and begged him for more. He agreed to pass Corbiere and when we got to the Elbow I put my stick in my right hand and I saw Mr Snugfit

about three lengths ahead. So I really belted him one, the hardest I'd hit him at any stage. And he just went. He'd never responded like that before. I think what happened is that he came round the Elbow, saw the leader, and realized how easy it would be to pass him. And when I hit him hard, he said to himself 'Alright, I've been thinking of that, but I'll do it now'. And voom, he flew.

As soon as I hit him I knew I had the race won even though I was still about three lengths behind. And then as I passed Mr Snugfit it hit me. 'I've won the National'. And then I realized how exhausted I was. I got very emotional. There's no feeling like it.

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LAST SUSPECT: Can be safely crossed off your list. In same ownership as Arkle but should not be mentioned in same breath. LENEY DUAL: May be involved in duel for last place. LUCKY VANE: Prone to occasional serious error and surprised many by getting round to finish fourth last year.

Bookies, tipsters and The Times got it wrong last year

You know immediately whether the horse has gone over the top, whether the build up has sent him over and he's bottled out on you and lost his confidence, or whether he's revving and going for it. Some horses start rushing it and then just pack it in. Others come out just right. All they want is to think about what they're doing.

I knew that Last Suspect was in that sort of mood as soon as we approached the first. When he caught sight of it his ears were pricked, and he was looking for it, feeling that he wanted to jump it. It must be terrible to fall at the first, but he's jumped it well and cleanly and immediately I think 'thank God for that, he's got over the first and we're under way'.

The second is OK and he's now settling down into his routine. The third fence is a huge fence, a big open ditch enough to drive a car through. And the horses do often bottle

of freeze, they stop breathing, their mouths open. They must die the death, because there's no ground there, it's just gone. But Old Sus was great over it like an old gentleman should be. Preservation was foremost in his mind. He just glided down and landed softly.

Then there's a small fence which you just pop over. You try to get your breather over that one.

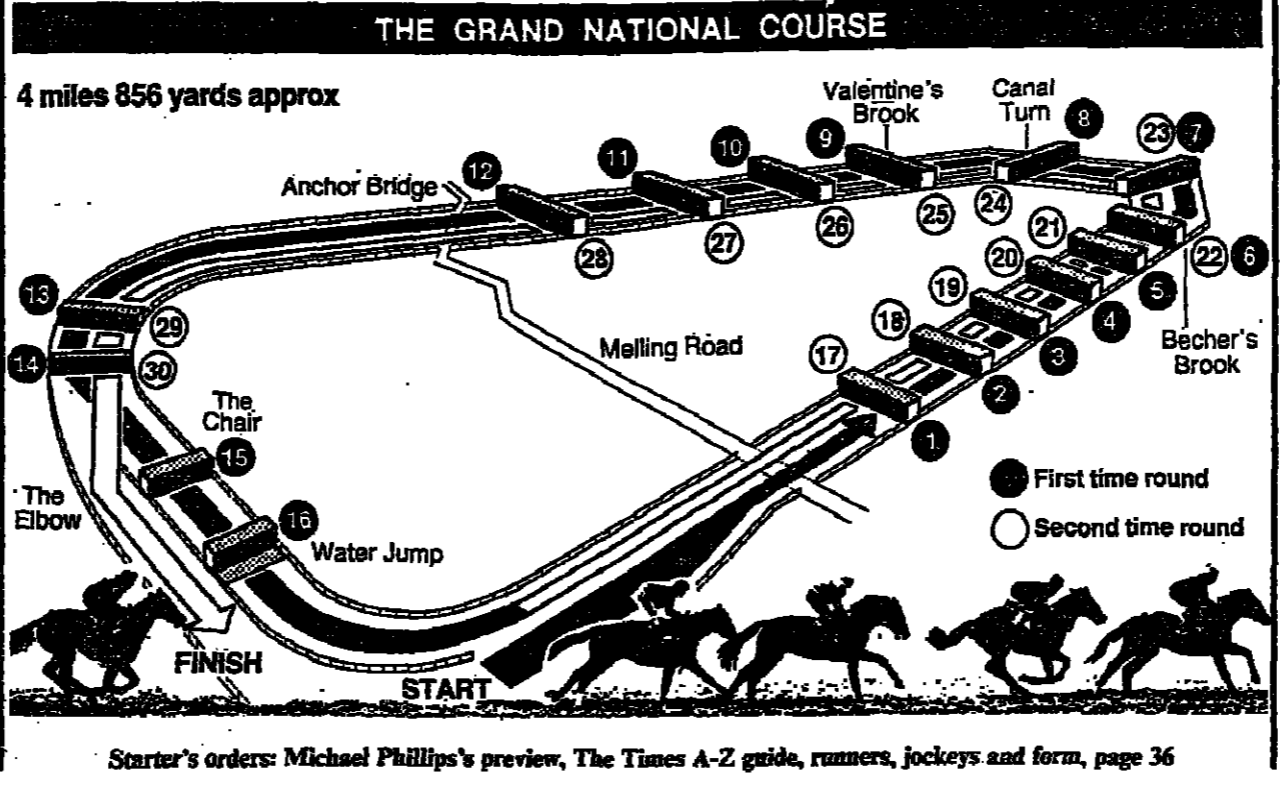
Then the Canal Turn. That's a bit tricky because you've got to meet it and jump it at an angle, and then Valentine's Brook, which is a big fence with a bit of a drop to the side and a ditch on the landing side which the horse can't see. But he jumped it really well.

Coming towards the end of the first circuit he was still enjoying it, going round nicely on the bridle, and I found myself a lot handier than I thought I'd be. Just coming to the last two fences with a circuit to run, I realized how

SATURDAY Paula Wilcox in conversation: the serious side of a comic actress, page 18

Table with 2 columns: Arts Diary, 18 Gardening, 13; 14 Out and About, 14; Chess, 14 Opera, 18; Concerts, 18 Photography, 18; Crossword, 14 Review, 17; Dance, 18 Shopping, 15; Drink, 15 Theatre, 18; Eating Out, 15 Times Cook, 13; Films, 18 Travel, 12; Galleries, 18 TV and radio, 17

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JPT STOCK APRIL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Marooned in a pineapple patch

Michael Watkins concludes his series on out-of-the-way places in the Azores, where he is beguiled by the verdant and drowsy charms of an unfiled island

You never know with travel: you could end up with a lollipop, or the taste of bile in your mouth. And this is its attraction, for in our tidy society travel remains one of the last frontiers of the unpredictable.

Take the Azores: all nine of them, staunchly anchored to the mid-Atlantic sea-bed. What I had intended was, if not the entire archipelago then certainly a healthy cross-section of four or five. Instead I found myself marooned on one for 48 hours - the island of São Miguel.

Forty-eight hours, you have every right to consider, is not long enough to form a valid opinion. Quite so; but it is necessary to drink a whole bottle of wine to get its measure? I am happy with a swig or two... which in the case of wines grown on the islands of Pico, Graciosa and Terceira, was rather overdoing things.

For the Azores, the clock stopped the day before yesterday. Neither, if I am honest, can I rhapsodize about the cooking as prepared by the Cavallo Branco. The Santa Bárbara restaurant renowned for Azorean specialities. This particular treat consisted of cabbage soup, boiled goat and pineapples.

Pineapples proliferate. They are cultivated with bellicosity, pointing their spiky foliage skywards. Armed, as they are, with nuclear warheads, these pineapples are the Azorean defence-system. They

will never be launched, of course, for the simple reason that the island will continue to snooze uninterrupted for the rest of time.

It would be misleading to say that the Azores belong to yesterday. For them the clock stopped the day before yesterday, with a certain drowsy charm in which no ill will befall you. Such is the trust that keys, by custom, are left in front-doors, allowing access to the neighbours. It is a nicely informal note among an otherwise formal people.

"My name", my guide and mentor formally introduced himself, "is Professor Luciano de Resende Mota Vieira and our chauffeur's name is Mr Mario Manuel Barbosa Botelho. They are long names, but we have plenty of time here." It was not a frivolous statement because Professor Luciano etcetera, was not a humorous man. He later imparted his formula for success: "You should eat more beans", he advised, "and admire more flowers". I concentrated instead on the flowers which, if anything, out-did the pineapples. It is not an exaggeration to claim that São Miguel is one vast garden measuring 62km by 16km in which hydrangeas, azaleas, hibiscus, and cannas are rampant.

And where flowers begin to thin out, tea and tobacco plantations take over. Wilderness belongs only to mountain slopes and to those areas of the earth's crust which have the bad manners to gurggle and belch - as they did on the day they came adrift from the



Atlantic garden: Magnificent flowers like these hydrangeas proliferate on São Miguel

TRAVEL NOTES

British Airways and TAP Air Portugal fly to São Miguel via Lisbon; BA to Lisbon from £114, TAP Lisbon to São Miguel from £166. The only hotel I liked on the island was the Caloura (5580 Lagoa, São Miguel), double £15.50 plus lunch and dinner at £4.90 per meal. Suntuons of Winney, Madeira House, Corn Street, Witney, Oxon (0893 76969) feature a 7-day trip to the Azores from £365.



This sun. This gaseous quarter, redolent of bad eggs, is in the Furnas Valley on the banks of a calm and beguiling lake.

With Professor Luciano I peered into a few of the softeners popular among those who choose to cook in the open. The principle of the operation is that you pop your cabbage soup, goat and so on

into a sealed pot, burying the whole affair in the ground. Four hours later you dig it up, done to a turn. After that we watched mud boiling in the ground at Caldeira de Ferro Botelho. And if anybody tells you that looking at boiling mud is anything more genial than the ultimate bore, he is lying. Settlement by the Portuguese started in 1444. In 1582 the Spanish came, remaining until the restoration of Portugal's independence in 1640. After the 1974 Revolution the Azores were assured their own legislative assembly and government. Portuguese, but not Portuguese; for these islands are a long way from mainland Portugal, and their peo-

ple, unless I am wide of the mark, are a breed in which vulcanism is not extinct. Why else have they remained so undefiled by outside contagions? You could say because airline schedules are enough to put anyone off, that there is a shortage of good hotels, or that the weather is unreliable. But that's only half the story.

The other half is that they are just plain old-fashioned and doggedly resolved to remain so. When, in country districts, a young man fancies a girl, he addresses his courtship from the street beneath her window; and when, after a year or so, it is noticed that their intentions are not of an entirely flippant nature, representatives of both families confer upon the next stage of the mating ritual.

There is the sound of wind, the clomp of hoofs, the swish of rain

In São Miguel's capital town of Ponta Delgada there are no junk-foods or massage parlours; shops are stocked with military goods. Not a boutique in sight. There are signs of concession: the sole high-rise structure at the town centre, designed as an hotel and abandoned as a failure before its doors opened; a nine-hole mountain golf course, and ten evening, three or four hours each evening, the first programme of which his pharmacies open on the island.

With all the wisdom of 48 hours' stay, I do not believe that there is anything opaque in the Azorean predicament. It would not do to look for subtlety or deviousness because very likely those traits do not exist. And in the process you would be insulting your host, who strikes me as proud and not at all predatory. They move in formal patterns, disciplined and honourable, like the land they work. They did not stimulate me, nor, judging by the

polite silences over meals, did I stimulate them. There are few frills and not many smiles. Houses are houses: four walls, a roof, a patch of land for growing food and keeping a pig. On a grander scale, both sacred and secular, the architecture has the fine presence and balance of 16th to 18th-century colonial style. Ponta Delgada's Church of São Sebastião is a classic example.

There are mosaic pavements, cobbled streets, marvellously shaped wrought-iron balconies, and everywhere a serene tranquillity. There is the sound of wind, the clomp of hoofs, the swish of rain. There is an enchanting scenery. I am thinking particularly of the two great lakes, Lagoa Verde and Lagoa Azul; and of the Pico de Carvão at the island's heart. I am thinking, also, of fishing villages such as Ribeira Quente, where the quicksilver flash of the morning haul dapples the quay in a wealthy light.

Big-game fishing and breezes puffing up the sails of yachts... the frank, friendly laughter of folk-dancers... mouth-watering cuisine... I quote from the brochure to make sure I get it right. Because, as you may have guessed, I am beginning to excavate for reasons to lure me back for a further 48 hours.

I am not convinced that the following is an utterly compelling reason, but on my second and final evening Professor Luciano invited me to the house of his daughter and son-in-law. The light was perfect; from their sitting room the sea looked tranquil, the landscape contained no horrors. After a while a jug of orange squash was served, with a bowl of those chess supermarket crisps that taste of soiled linen. Bazzaz came on telly. They asked for my impressions of their island, while I tipped through a home-spun web of euphemism. And if, marginally, I was bored, I know I had only myself to blame.

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TRAVEL

Mountains and water provide a stunning backdrop to Orta, John Mair writes

Lapping up the legend of a lake

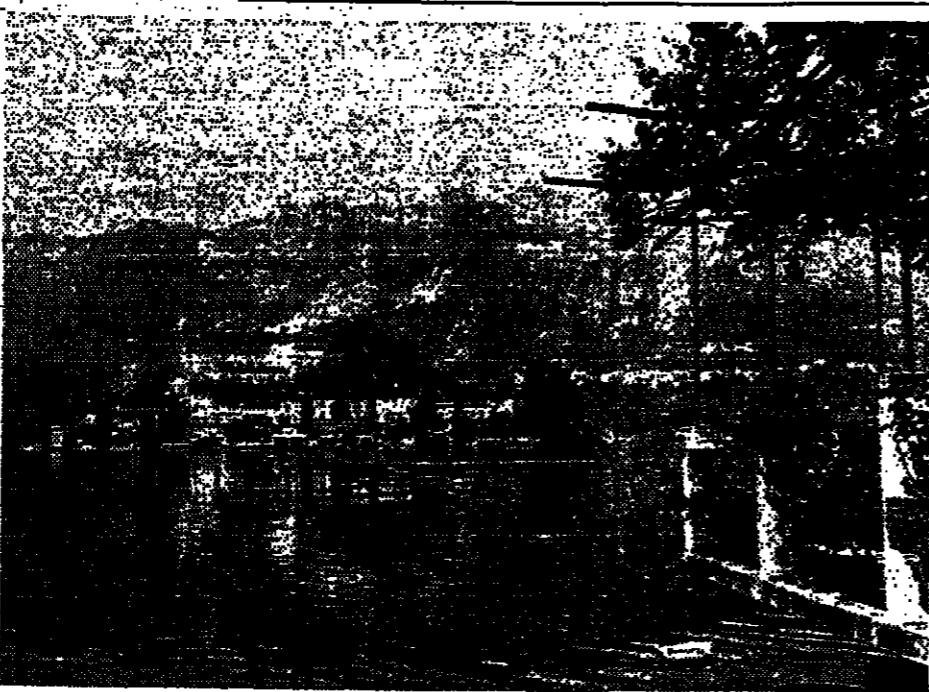
The Italian girl on the airport bus seemed puzzled. "Which lake?" she asked. "Orta," I replied, slowly and clearly. "Ah, yes," she answered, "I think I know of it."

It came as no surprise to learn that Lake Orta is not as well known as its larger and more marketable neighbours, Maggiore and Como, whose shorelines support grand hotels and impressive boulevards. The mountains plunge more rapidly to Lake Orta, leaving little space for large-scale schemes on its eastern and western shores. And there is a gentler, less dramatic, aspect to the scenery round the lake.

That is not to say that Orta's tourist potential has been undervalued. The important thing is that it has not been overvalued. The place and the people seem to preserve a distinctly uncommercial, natural air which simply defies exploitation - and does not seem to exploit visitors.

Certainly there is nothing gaudy about the way the place sells itself. Whether you are in one of the neat little lakeside towns such as Pettenuasco, or in one of the mountain villages where narrow roads taper away to near-nothingness - between apparently dangerously bulging walls, the rhythms of the day remain undisturbed by any strangers who happen to drop in.

Lunchtime is a clatter of cutlery on plate, afternoon a silence disturbed only by children's voices, and early evening the time the real business of the day seems to get done, whether in a shop or over a drink in a local cafe. The focal point of this peaceful green world is a small peninsula on the lake's western shore. There stands the town of Orta, and some half-



No snakes or dragons: the tiny island of San Giulio, where unseen monks chant in Latin

mile offshore lies the tiny island of San Giulio. The effect is quietly remarkable.

In particular the view of the island from Orta has one drooping and oohing and aching. There is the shimmering lake, with a dramatic backdrop of mountains, sits a biggedly-piggledy collection of ancient villas clinging to the central Basilica.

We sat in the piazza facing the island munching breakfast panini and drinking coffee to savour the view in the morning light.

We promenade across the piazza as the dying sun glowed on the church tower atop the island, and we washed down dinner marvelling at the different aspects of the island thrown up by the flood-lighting. It drew us again and again.

Orta's traditional attraction was created by a religious legend, The Greek Julius, who

gave the island its name, is said to have crossed the narrow strip of water on his cloak and rid the island of snakes and dragons. And there he established his 10th-century church.

It is impossible not to be moved by the extraordinary atmosphere of the present church (12th century) with its magnificent medieval frescoes and an elaborately-carved marble pulpit. We attended the early evening service, when the unseen choir of monks chanted in Latin. The voices seemed to come from the dome of the place and drift down in a hollow, steely echo.

Later our eyes would turn to the island as the bell of the Basilica rang, and we would hear the voices of the monks again.

From the main square, where tables spill out from the

many cafes and restaurants a steep road, partly-stepped, leads towards Orta's other notable site - the Sacro Monte. On this sacred wooded hill stand 20 chapels dedicated to St Francis of Assisi. Both the setting and the enterprise, which was completed in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, share a profound sense of the theatrical. The chapels are decorated in various ways, but most strikingly by the use of painted statues in realistic scenes.

It is as if some Renaissance painting had become three-dimensional and the whole effect is of a peculiar degree of devotion, not only to a religious ideal, but also to a sort of artistic eccentricity.

But one comes to expect little other of Orta. Throughout the town, even the most doggedly prosaic mentality becomes aware of how the balconies and doorways frame one inspirational view after another.

And when it all gets too much (well, not it exactly, but the hordes clamouring to share it on the national holiday weekend, for instance) there is always escape up the mountains or out on to the lake in a small boat to discover it from a new perspective.



TRAVEL NOTES
The Travel Club of Uppminster, Station Road, Uppminster, Essex (Uppminster 25000) offer hotel and apartment holidays in Orta, San Giulio and Pettenuasco with flights from Gatwick to Milan Malpensa. Prices for two-week holidays range from £222 to £470 per person.

Long haul lowdown

TRAVEL NEWS
holidays in Florida and £80 on the West Coast for most departures between April 14 and June 30, while Virgin Holidays is cutting up to £100 off Florida holiday prices from June 1.

Substantial price cuts are emerging on long-haul holidays. Speedbird Holidays customers travelling to Thailand in May and June will be given a price reduction of £55 to £495 per adult on the starting price for a week in Bangkok. Speedbird is also giving reductions of up to £100 at three hotels in the Seychelles for departures during April, May and June.

Pan American is giving discounts of £65 on fly-drive

holidays in Florida and £80 on the West Coast for most departures between April 14 and June 30, while Virgin Holidays is cutting up to £100 off Florida holiday prices from June 1.

Holidays for ornithologists are offered in a new programme from Branta Travel. They include a four-day sea-watching trip between Plymouth and Brestoff and then on to Cork, with the chance to see "thousands" of Manx shearwaters, as well as an eight-day holiday to Sweden with a visit to Falsterbo for the mass migration of birds of prey. Information on 01-229 7231.

East meets West
Holidays in East and West Germany are brought together in a new programme from London-based GTF Tours. A seven-day guided coach tour of East Germany, added on to a Berlin visit, costs from £210.

Philip Ray

THE TIMES COOK

Forgoing the fat of the land

Shona Crawford Poole reports a return to rationing for today's canny cooks

Healthy eating has always been the principal concern of cookery books. Preserving the fat season's bounty for the lean season's subsistence was expertise on which our ancestors depended absolutely. And in many parts of a world still plagued by famine, getting enough to eat all year round is far from certain yet.

But for Britain in the 1980s healthy eating means adopting new ideas about what is good for us. We are instructed to cut down on the very foodstuffs that no time ago parents were pleased to be able to afford to feed their children. Instead of worrying about adequate quantities of protein and vitamins, today's conscientious provider rations dishes rich in fat, sugar and salt.

From the cook's point of view it is a demanding switch, and publishers have been quick to respond with books like *Cuisine Nouvelle* by Anton Mosimann, *The Mediterranean Diet* by Robin Howe, and *The Guiltless Gourmet* by David Mabey. They were joined last month by Caroline Waldegrave's *The Healthy Gourmet* (Grafton Books, £8.95) from which this week's recipes are taken.

As the principal of Leith's School of Food and Wine, wife of William Waldegrave MP and mother of two small daughters, Caroline Waldegrave has no time for fussy food. Her recipes are exceptionally straightforward, and the nutritional notes in the introduction provide useful information for those who wish to bring their own recipes into line with the latest thinking.

Fennel and walnut salad
Serves four

2 bulbs of fennel
55g (2 oz) fresh walnuts, weighed after shelling

For the salad dressing
4 tablespoons fromage blanc or 3 of natural yogurt
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Chopped fresh chives to taste

Remove the tough outside leaves of the fennel and discard. Cut off the feathery tops and keep for decoration. Cut the fennel into long strips. Simmer the fennel in water for two minutes. Rinse it under running cold water and drain it well.

Pick off as much skin as possible from the walnuts and chop them roughly. Mix the dressing ingredients well then stir in the fennel and walnuts. File into a serving dish and decorate with chopped fennel tops.

Serve as a first course or with fish.

Fresh sardines are inexpensive and full of flavour, but they can be fiddly to eat, which is why Caroline Waldegrave bones them for her guests.

Grilled Sardines
Serves four

16 fresh sardines
Sunflower oil for grilling

1 lemon
Small bunch of parsley

Freshly ground black pepper

To clean the sardines: slit along the belly and remove the innards. Rinse the fish under running cold water and with a



little salt gently rub away any black matter in the cavity. Cut off the gills.

Snip the back bone just below the head and above the tail and carefully pull it out.

Cut the lemon in half and remove all the rind and pith from one half. Cut this half into 16 and put a piece, along with a sprig of parsley, into the cavity of each sardine. Squeeze the juice from the other lemon half.

Heat up the grill. Score the sardines with three or four diagonal cuts on each side; brush them with a little oil. Season with black pepper and sprinkle with lemon juice.

Grill the sardines for about four minutes on each side, brushing them with the hot oil and juices that run from the fish.

Lay the sardines on a warmed platter. Pour over the juices from the grill pan and serve at once.

Hot apricot pots call for quark, a fresh skimmed milk cheese that can be found in most delicatessens. Choose the variety with the fewest calories.

Hot apricot pots
Serves four

55g (2oz) good quality dried apricots

150ml (1/2 pint) water

4 cardamom pods, cracked

110g (4 oz) quark

1 egg

150ml (1/2 pint) skimmed milk

Soak the apricots in cold water for 2 hours. Then drain them. Simmer the apricots in the water with the cardamom pods until the fruit is tender, about 20 minutes, then remove the cardamoms.

Pound the apricots, ideally in a food processor, with the quark cheese. Add the egg - don't worry if it looks as though it will not mix, it does. Gradually add the milk.

Pour the mixture into 4 small ramekin dishes and set them in another larger tin or dish. Pour in boiling water to come at least half way up the sides of the ramekins. Bake the hot pots in a bain marie in a preheated cook oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about 40 minutes, or until set.

IN THE GARDEN

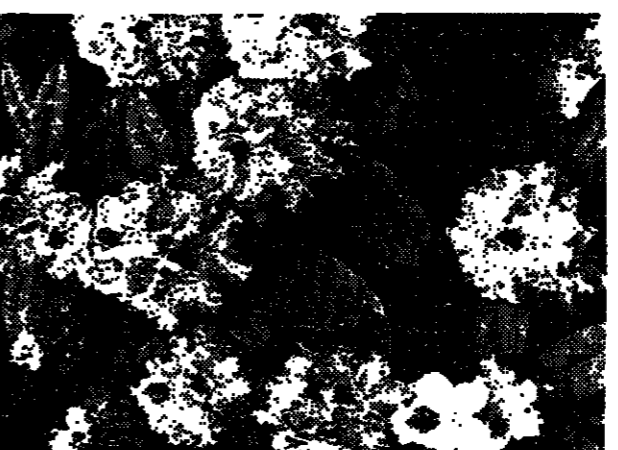
Moving time for the evergreens

Growth is now apparent in all parts of the garden. Buds on the deciduous trees and shrubs are swelling and there is just a hint of green. This is the sign I look for when I begin to consider transplanting or replanting evergreens which are the backbone of many gardens.

Evergreens will often suffer if they are moved at the same time as deciduous plants, in other words during the winter or dormant period. Being evergreen they are never completely dormant, but growth slows down considerably in the winter. If moved in the cold weather a change in their circumstances can be enough to allow the elements to work on the plant.

April is the best time of the year in which to move evergreens; another good time is September when the ground is still warm and the plants are making both top and root growth.

Preparation is all-important. Good quality evergreens are expensive to buy and they are easily lost if not looked after properly. It is absolutely essential to look carefully at the plants you are buying. Go to a reputable firm and ask if the plants have been container grown; this means they were put into their pots when young and have been growing for



Old faithfuls: rhododendrons, the ever popular evergreens

some months in the container and not simply placed there just prior to going on sale. If a plant comes easily out of its container with a lot of loose soil, the chances are that it has not been grown in the container; don't buy it.

Prepare the ground before planting. For trees or large shrubs, dig a hole which is at least 2 feet square and two spits deep. In most cases the soil on site is perfectly good; sometimes, however, it may be necessary to import good quality top soil. Add good quality farmyard manure to the bottom spit and mix this in to the soil. Never leave

ground is universally wet; if the container is dry the plant must be watered before it is replanted.

The worst enemy of newly planted evergreens is a cold drying wind. If at all possible, plant where they have protection from existing plants. If not, erect screens on the side from which the winds attack. This can be strips of plastic or hessian. The screen should allow some of the wind through but break the main force. This will allow the plants to get over their first few weeks without experiencing too much dehydration.

There are products on the market which can be sprayed onto plants to cut down transpiration loss. Synchronicals have a spray called S600 which is best applied to the plants before they are lifted, but it can be applied at any time to cut down water loss from the plant.

Ashley Stephenson

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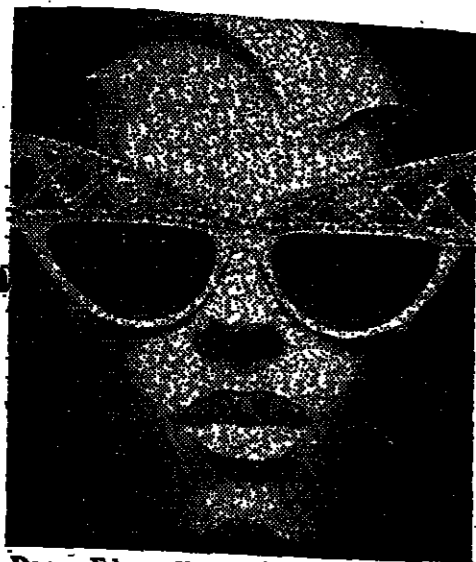
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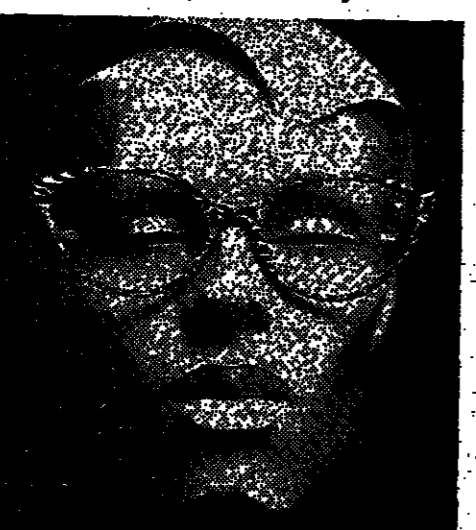
About 1,000 optical shops have opened since the change in the law on the sale of glasses, but has the consumer benefited?



Dame Edna: diamonds extravaganza by Mikki, £233.20 at Dollond & Aitchison



Rosy glow: fine metal frames in deep pink by Silhouette, £180 at For Eyes



Tiger eyes: 1950s style frames by Anglo American, £42.95 at Dollond & Aitchison



All square: brown and beige tortoiseshell effect by Christian Dior, £65 at For Eyes



In the round: the Billy Baxter round-eyed look in red or blue plastic may not be original but it is the latest Unisex style, price £49.50 from For Eyes



Crazy, man: crossed guitars by American Optical, £36.95 at Dollond & Aitchison



Blue chip: rimless blue glass held by gold "antlers" by Polaris, £180 at For Eyes



Black looks: aviator style in matt black by Silhouette, £99.50 at For Eyes



In the pink: Fab Two's pale pink plastic frames, £19.95 at Dollond & Aitchison

Eye-catching spectacle

A year ago opticians shook off their professional shackles. From April 1, 1985 they were allowed to advertise, to price their wares, to compete in a free market-place unhampered by the demands of the National Health Service. Prices will come down, say the optimists. So will standards, warned the pessimists. Who was right?

One fear does not seem to have been fulfilled — that unqualified traders at garages and supermarkets would be handing out cheap all-purpose spectacles to people who could afford nothing better once their right to National Health spectacles was withdrawn.

About 1,000 new optical shops have opened during the past year and less than half have been unregistered (without a qualified optician on the premises). Dick Harris, chairman of the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians, sees them as a threat to registered opticians rather than to the public's eyes.

"There has been a 12½ per cent increase in outlets but nothing like that in demand", he says. "It's a myth that people buy several pairs of spectacles to match different outfits. Unregistered outlets have lower overheads because they need no qualified staff. In the increasingly competitive climate, registered opticians who cannot achieve a large enough volume of sales will go to the wall."

Beryl Downing looks at how fierce high-street competition has affected the cost and changing fashion of frames

Competition appears to have brought a much wider choice of frames in the lower price ranges, but the main reason for any reduction in prices, say the opticians, is that they are no longer having to run part of their businesses at NHS rates.

"In hybrid NHS spectacles (where the customer chooses a more expensive frame, but has NHS lenses) the extra amount the customers were paying was sometimes not the total amount the opticians were allowed to keep, so they were virtually collecting extra money for the NHS", Dick Harris said.

Hybrids and other NHS spectacles accounted for 30 per cent of their business — and after the introduction of the 924 frame, which was more attractive and fashionable, it went up to 50 per cent. I know of no other business which has that sort of loss leader, and it isn't surprising that the cost of private spectacles was high to make up for it. Now the necessity has been removed, prices have come down.

Even so, the average price paid for spectacles has risen. A year ago it was £35, now it is £45, although it is possible to have attractive frames fitted with straightforward prescriptions for as little as £14.95, or £19.95 for a complex lens (this

at Dollond & Aitchison, the country's largest group of opticians.)

Since the new legislation last year those entitled to National Health spectacles are now only children and those on Social Security. In July the system will change and the same groups will receive a voucher from the optician of their choice, to be put towards the cost of spectacles. The value of the voucher has not yet been decided, but it will be, it is said, sufficient for a basic pair of spectacles. National Health eye tests will continue to be available annually, free for everyone.

The greatest improvements in spectacle-buying are speed, wider choice and price-labelling; you know even before an eye test just what you will be expected to pay. It was always a mystery that people selling a product were not allowed to show what it cost. Most opticians have welcomed the change and have responded

positively to the trading opportunities it offers. The ability to wander in to a spectacle shop and try on a selection of frames without an appointment, and without feeling any sense of being in a shrine is another great boon — so popular that Dollond & Aitchison have opened Europe's first optical department store, Eyeland House, near Birmingham.

It has 2,000 sq ft of optical departments for men, women and children, plus ranges of sunglasses and protective and specialist eyewear. There is a choice of more than 3,000 frames and a team of qualified opticians to test and fit.

A new idea is a video to help with your choice. It will take pictures of you wearing various types of frames and if you still cannot decide you can take a Polaroid picture home for a second opinion.

Eyeland also provides an emergency service from 8am to 7pm Mondays to Fridays and until 5.30pm on Saturdays. Broken or lost spectacles can be replaced within an hour. Eyeland House is near Birmingham and more stores are planned this year.

Speed has always been one of the services offered by Stephen Isaacs, who describes himself as "in the head adorn-

ment business". Isaacs, of For Eyes in London, was one of the defiant pioneers of modern spectacle-selling, who risked the wrath of the General Optical Council by putting prices on his wares and by wickedly getting himself publicized in newspapers. The GOC was eventually forced to change the rules.

In spite of criticism from some conventional opticians and imitation by others, For Eyes has maintained its lead in fashion spectacles at reasonable prices.

The latest trend is towards new materials and old shapes. Epoxy resin is easy to mould back into shape when damaged and is said to be third lighter than any other plastic. Another 30 per cent lighter than the resin is titanium, which is also flexible and unbreakable. This, plus plastic lenses, is the perfect answer for people who cannot bear pressure on the bridge of the nose.

What shape? Most people choose spectacles to suit the shape of their face rather than the whim of fashion, but for those who like to set trends, the 1950s are back in style, with swept frames ranging from the discreet to the Dame Edna. The other shape of the season is the small, round frame in tortoiseshell or transparent plastic. The colours may be new — cherry reds and harebell blue, but the style is remarkably reminiscent of — dare I suggest? — the NHS.

Eyeland House, 1.323 Coventry Road, Yardley, near Birmingham (021-707 8177). For Eyes, 21 James Street, London WC2 (01-240 1780) and branches at Chesham, High Holborn and Golders Green.
Mannequin heads by Parache, London W1. Pictures by Charles Milligan

EATING OUT

All set for the grand hotel

Childhood nightmares of eating in hotels — sitting stiff-backed in silence while munching through waterlogged spinach and burnt roast potatoes — have been all but expunged by my more recent experiences of hotel dining-rooms.

Led by the likes of Anton Mosimann at the Dorchester, chefs based in hotel kitchens have been earning as much recognition, if not more, than their colleagues in individual restaurants and the restaurant-going public recognizes that the hotel dining-room is no longer an unfashionable or over-priced alternative to the local bistro.

One of the devices that has been used to great advantage is the fixed-price meal, allowing customers to enjoy the generally superior comfort of a hotel at rates more suited to the confined spaces of a restaurant.

The Athenaeum Hotel, situated at the Hyde Park end of Piccadilly, is a perfect example. There is an appealing à la carte menu, but the business lunch is so comprehensive and such good value — two or three courses, coffee, wine and service for £15.50 or £17.50 — that it is more convenient to choose from that. Nor is choice restricted by the fixed price. The starters offer a range of light and savoury items, from leek and spinach au gratin to a pungent, moist game terrine, served with Cumberland sauce.



Diana Leach/Dorset spinach and cheese — and six creations involving meat, offal or game.

The dessert trolley is a supreme temptation to go beyond the £15.50, two-course limit, with strawberry-flavoured zabaglione and chocolate truffle torte proving irresistible. Cheeses are well represented in the English farmhouse/high-class French import style.

The wines included in the set lunch are far from negligible either — a light but fruity Bordeaux supérieur, Chateau Montdespic, is the red option. Service is well-drilled and attentive without being starchy.

Dukes Hotel, set in a quiet courtyard off bustling St James's Place, offers equally good value at lunchtime: in

FOOD NOTES

Athenaeum Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-489 3484). Open: Mon-Sat 12.30-3pm and 6-10.30pm; Sun 12.30-2.30pm and 7-10pm.
Dukes Hotel, St James's Place, London SW1 (01-491 4840). Open daily 12.30-2.30pm and 6-10pm (Sun, 7-10pm).

DRINK

Winning the battle over Bordeaux

APRIL WINES

The campaign by UK wine merchants to hold down Bordeaux proprietors' charges for their 1985 clarets seems to be succeeding. Most chateaux owners are releasing their wines at the same prices as for '84 vintages — or with merely marginal mark-ups.

Robin Kernick of Corney & Barrow master-minded the plan for which all may benefit. Admirers of cru classé Bordeaux who like to buy early, and cheaply, still have time to send for the Hungerford Wine Company's offer for the '85 clarets, which I wrote about two weeks ago. Hungerford have extended the closing date to April 14.

Unfortunately many chateaux are releasing only small quantities of their en primeur clarets — about as little as they released in 1984. These limited quantities and a strong demand inevitably created a seller's market.

An unpalatable aspect of the early trading of the 1985 Bordeaux vintage is the attempt by many negociants to fob off their mossy mediocre '84s and '85s together. They will not deal with UK merchants who did not buy the '84s, unless they are prepared to buy them now — in addition to the '85s.

Bordeaux lovers are therefore well-advised to buy early. As yet, very few of our wine merchants have made Bordeaux 1985 offers. Those who have include Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, London SW10; The Hungerford Wine Company, 128 High Street, Hungerford, Berks; Kershaw's Wine Warehouse, 2 Canfield Gardens, London NW6 and David Baillie Vintners, 86 Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon. April is also a good month to consume the last of the winter reds before moving on to the first of the spring and summer wines. After a Budget it is rare to hear of wine merchants lowering their prices, but this is exactly what The Market chain has just done with its splendid '84 Chateau de Belle Isle Corbières from Monsieur Paul Pugaud of Lezignan. This Corbières is on special offer this month at £2.39 instead of £2.49. I much enjoyed its 13 per cent alcohol, purple-black colour, spicy bouquet and raspberry-like palate.

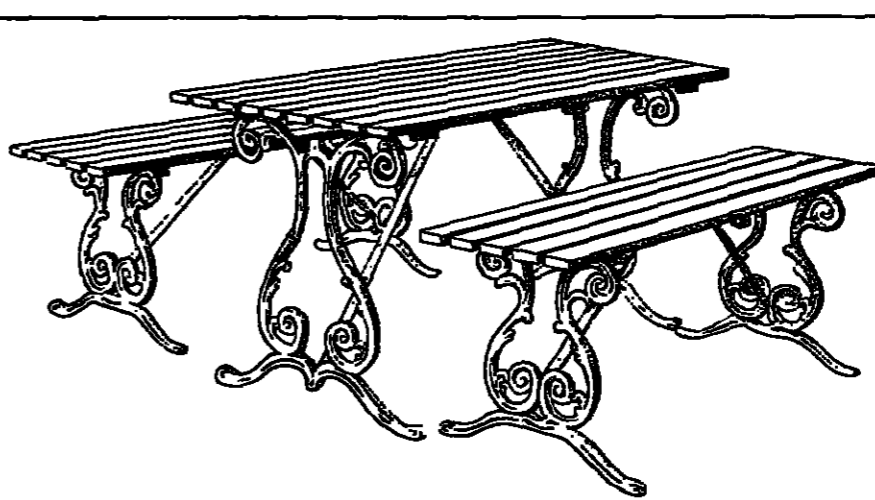
Another good April red comes from Sainsbury's Vintage Selection. Clarets accounts for much of this range, and although I was not all that smitten with Sainsbury's '83 Courtay-Chollet from the Graves when I first tasted it last November, it has now rounded out to a big, cassie-like mouthful with a grassy flavour. Sadly, its price has filled out as well from £3.75 per bottle in November to £4.45 now. The poor exchange rate against the franc has caused even cost-conscious supermarkets to raise their prices. My advice this month is to pop along to your nearest Waitrose, whose under-£2 selection is superior to that of Sainsbury. The pick is the Carafe Red from Sardinia with its spicy peppery-fruity taste, especially as a one-litre bottle is just £2.35, while the two-litre bottle priced at £4.45 works out at only £1.67 per 75cl bottle.

Bordeaux 1985 offers. Those who have include Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, London SW10; The Hungerford Wine Company, 128 High Street, Hungerford, Berks; Kershaw's Wine Warehouse, 2 Canfield Gardens, London NW6 and David Baillie Vintners, 86 Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon.

Stan Hey

Jane MacQuitty

STYLISH GARDEN FURNITURE



This beautifully designed set of table and benches will remain a classic for many years to come.

Cast-iron furniture is always elegant to look at but has the disadvantage of being heavy and prone to rusting. The set of furniture offered here, however, is made using a high silicon aluminium alloy which is very durable yet relatively light. The furniture is finished in an electrostatically applied polyester powder to produce a highly chip and scratch resistant coating. The table and bench tops are made from specially treated Iroko hardwood slats and the set is supplied with instructions for easy home assembly.

Made in the U.K., the table measures 27" high, 25" wide and 51" long and the two benches measure 19" high, 14" wide and 51" long.

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Paperbacks

REVIEW

Royal routes and branches

The Queen Observed edited by Trevor Grove (Pavilion, £9.95) The Royal 100 by Alan Hamilton (Pavilion, £8.95)

The Queen's sixtieth birthday looms and, predictably, authors and publishers seek ways of celebrating it. Pavilion have produced two books that do not conform to the obvious version of a royal book.

The Queen Observed contains essays by "a team of distinguished writers from The Observer". Because they are intelligent and not royal experts, they feel able to be somewhat rude at times, before bracing up their perorations and concluding that the Queen "is a good thing".

Thus Ann Barr refers to our "dry-biscuit Queen", Clancy Sigal writes of her "unthreatening dowdiness", and Katharine Whitehorn chides Her Majesty for looking sombre in church (without reminding us that the Queen is Head of the Church of England and thus has spiritual responsibilities to consider).

While on this happy occasion it is good to have John Grigg atoning for his outspoken behaviour in the 1950s, it is irksome that Katharine Whitehorn can only conclude that it is a good thing to have "an earth mother figure" on the throne.

However, there is interesting material in Donald Treford's article on the Press and the Palace, and Hugh Redman is very jolly on the raising, with good quotes from Lord Pureswell.

At times I felt that the pieces were uninspired. Simon Hoggart revamping material from the 1985 tour of the West Indies, and Alan Watkins doing a nifty précis of his findings in Volume II of The Crossman Diaries.

Alas, too, there are three occasions in "one of the best photo collections ever assembled" (the blurb), when the Queen is observed back-to-front, the glorious colour slides having been printed in reverse.



Her kingdom for a horse? The Queen shares a love of horses with many of her relatives. She is pictured here at Windsor in 1956, with Prince Charles and Princess Anne

in numerous headachings while preparing this book. Of course it is all academic, and it would take a tragedy of prodigious proportions to place somebody like Ulf Sauscher (number 86) on our throne.

Interestingly, all the 100 descend either from Edward VII or from his brother Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. Thus, technical members of the Royal Family like the Ramseys and Abel Smiths are well out of the running.

Mr Hamilton set himself a doubly difficult task by feeling that he had to say something about each and every one of the 100, and very quickly discovered that there really is nothing to say about some of the candidates. At these points he resorts to phrases such as: "Like his cousin Nicholas, born in the same year, he enters the line of succession".

His book is not without errors. Lady Helen Windsor does not work for a Bond Street auctioneer, but for a King Street one (Christie's). Edward Lascelles is not a plain "Mr"; as the son of a Viscount he is an "Hon". The wife of Henry Lascelles is omitted from an otherwise detailed book. The Fitz children were Highnesses (HRH) - Alexandra, Duchess of Fife, becoming an HRH only on marrying Prince Arthur of Connaught.

As I say, poor Mr Hamilton is in dangerous waters. However, he is to be commended on a nice accurate family tree, which is a vital guide to the many disparate branches he deals with.

After the Queen's Birthday books are safely out of the way we can, I imagine, look forward to a bout of "Fergie" fever amongst our august publishing houses. I rather dread it.

Hugo Vickers

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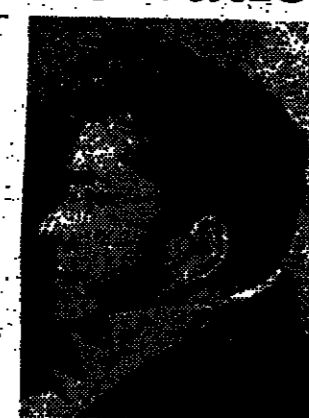
Ironic observations of life

Armanca by Stendhal, translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff (Soho, £5.95) My Heart Laid Bare and other prose writings by Charles Baudelaire, translated by Norman Cameron (Soho, £5.95) Dominique by Eugène Fromentin, translated by Sir Edward Marsh (Soho, £4.95) Assai by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, translated by M. Gaddis Ross (Soho, £4.95)

There has never been such a New Year's present, since a time when I was so young that everything was new. One is lucky to preserve pockets of ignorance that make these surprises possible. Here is Armanca, an early novel by Stendhal that I had never heard of, and so good it is like watching the first race of a young horse that is going to win the Derby.

No novel by Stendhal is all that early: this was the first, and he was 43 when he wrote it, after three years of love with a very beautiful woman, which cured him of an old, long drawn-out, unhappy passion; and cured him of youth perhaps. The three years ended sadly; he wrote Armanca and took refuge in London.

His style was already laconic, ironic and full of subtle observations of life. The story is simple: hardly more than a comic. The motif of love is complicated only by social obstacles and by the mysteriously dark, maturing temperament of the young man. Action, whenever it occurs, does so with precipitate violence.



Dark mystery: Stendhal, exploring tensions

Stendhal. "How I should like to command a gun or a steam engine", he says; and there is suppressed violence in the tension of the entire novel. When Armanca first appeared, its readers were mystified, and its hero thought crazy. Even today one might think him just another case of Byronic temperament - the novel ends with his ship in sight of Greece. His widow enters a convent; let us hope she came out again and married a successful promoter of railways.

But the clue is printed as an appendix: a letter from Stendhal to Mérimée written just before Christmas, 1826, reveals that the essential character of the novel is impotence, and the sexual difficulties of young people.

In fact, Stendhal has broached the subject of his masterworks, the process of growing up; and laid down one

of the secret ingredients of his style which, notwithstanding his pure clarity, is tact, knowing and conveying a great deal more about reality than he says in so many words. He is a profoundly benign writer.

Every publication so far from this new publishing house arouses one's curiosity. I am probably a typical customer in that I already possessed only part of the Baudelaire, in Isherwood's brilliant version with Auden's thrilling but opinionated introduction (Panther, 1969). The present offering is much more substantial.

The best known of these books is perhaps Fromentin's Dominique in Edward Marsh's translation, which used to be common in second-hand bookshops. Dominique has always been admired; I think it is one of Francis Wyndham's favourite books, which says a good deal for it.

The obscurest book to most readers will surely be Assai, an un-actable poetic prose drama by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam. In translation the "poetic" quality turns to cardboard, so that I opened it with a sigh and shut it frustrated. Some called it "admirable, but mad". I thought it intelligent, but intolerably affected.

The publisher's personal taste is obviously intransigent, and his range is very wide. Lyeskov, Nietzsche's letters, Pater's Marius, and George Barker's Dead Seagull are to come. The list makes one feel 100 years younger.

Peter Levi

Portrait of an artist in Paris

Scumbler by William Wharton (Penguin, £3.95)

Scumbler is an American painter living in Paris and many of the trappings of the artist-in-Paris tradition are lovingly laid out. There is inclined to be an aristocratic sculptor living downstairs and a Bohemian prostitute upstairs. At one point he is eating cold pizza in a bleak studio when a millionaire's wife sweeps in and begins to buy up all his paintings. Basically, however, it is more a simple story about a man coping with middle age, than one about art or Paris. Fortunately he has enough fantasies to liven things up.

Winter Journey by Ronald Frame (Triad Grafton, £2.50) There is often something tantalizing about a description of an adult relationship as seen through the eyes of a child. The details do not quite fit into a coherent pattern and the child's sense of powerlessness can distort as much as clarity.

In this story Ansoe, who is aged about 12, is travelling through Europe with her parents. As she sits in the back of the car she listens to her parents tearing each other apart and she recalls past events, isolated memories from her earlier childhood which help to explain the insults they are screaming at each other.

When we are told at the end that "the only history of importance is the history of what you once believed in, and what you came to believe in, and it is hard to decide who has believed in what, since we are left with only the fragments of a story. Perhaps that is the point.

The Fall of Kevin Walker by Alexander Gray (Penguin, £2.95) This is a moral fable mostly about being Scottish. Kevin Walker is the product of a strict Calvinistic upbringing who suddenly arrives in London to make his name. With the unassailable assets of naivety, self-centredness and his native accent he instantly lands a job in television - interviewing the great and the good. He becomes rich and successful. But it is not enough: he wants to put the world to rights and that is his downfall.

His father arrives from the North to cut him down to size in a painful television interview and his girlfriend abandons him. So he returns to Scotland to become a minister of the Church and to live unhappily ever after in a state of increasing narrow-mindedness. His girlfriend and the other hand settles down happily with an artist in Ladbrooke Grove. "It is easier for them", says Gray, "they are English".

Isabel Butterfield

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

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Anne Barnes

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Anne Barnes

Waving the flag for boys in battle

FILMS ON TV

Channel Four's success with its film and documentary seasons on the British at War and the Americans at War has persuaded it to fill the Thursday five o'clock slot for the next few weeks with a season on the Allies at War.

The formula is the same - usually a feature film followed by one or two short documentaries - but the umbrella title is not especially significant. Many of the films could just as well have been in the other seasons, and there is no underlying theme.

It starts with the 1939 film of Robert Sherwood's play Idiot's Delight (Thurs, 5-7pm), usually remembered for its rare glimpse of Clark Gable boozing it in white tie and tails to the music of "Puttin' on the Ritz". The serious bit has Gable, patriotic American, preaching pacifist morality to Norma Shearer, just as American but pretending to be Russian and going out with a nasty warmongering arms tycoon. She sees the error of her ways as war starts breaking out all over.

Later in the season, Western Approaches is a splendid example of what can be done without stars and with mini-budget resources. Made by the Crown Film Unit in 1943, it uses real merchant sailors torpedoed by the enemy and adrift at the mercy of U-boats. The men actually had to go out to sea in little boats - their discomfort seen on the screen was real enough. The story is fictional, but the feel of the film is documentary.

The Hitler Gang (1944) is a surprisingly effective bio-pic of the dictator's rise, with good portrayals of the leading Nazis and the inevitable Bobby Watson as Hitler - he played the role in no fewer than six films.

The eclectic season also includes This Gun for Hire (1942), which, though unashamedly made for propaganda purposes, is nevertheless, in spirit anyway, a reasonably intelligent and faithful adaptation of Graham Greene's A Gun for Sale. Alan Ladd gives a powerfully brooding performance as Raven, the psychotic hired killer whose patriotism eventually overcomes his mercenary neutrality.

The Pied Piper (1942) has Monty Woolley as an irascible old man smuggling children out of occupied France; and in Cloak and Dagger (directed by Fritz Lang in 1946) Gary Cooper is a scientist parachuting into Nazi Germany.

War can be fun, too. Bob Hope jokes his way into the army in Caught in the Draft (1941), and Abbott and Costello clown their way through the Air Corps in Keep 'em Flying (1941).

Marcel Berlins

THE WEEK AHEAD



Frontline chorus line: Clark Gable singing 'Puttin' on the Ritz' in Idiot's Delight

RECOMMENDED

The Men (1950): Marlon Brando very good in his first film, as a soldier returning home a paraplegic, with the attendant social and sexual problems. He spent a month in a wheelchair preparing. Still powerful (BBC2, today, 2.05-3.25pm).

Sullivan's Travels (1941): Directed by Preston Sturges, with Joel McCrea surprisingly convincing as wealthy film director quitting to discover life on the seamy side. Effective blend of satire and social realism (Channel 4, Tues, 9.10-10.45pm).

Sleeper (1973): Woody Allen wakes up after 200 years in the deep freeze, with some doubts about the future; with the usual mix of inventive and anguished gags and one-liners. Much more hit than miss (BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.50pm).

Tirez sur le Pianiste (1960): Charles Aznavour hauntingly excellent as the meek pianist caught up in murder and protecting his brothers, in Truffaut's virtuoso homage to the Hollywood film noir (Channel 4, Wed, 10-11.30pm).

This is Spinal Tap (1983): Frequently funny, scabrous



Playing ball: Woody Allen at work in Sleeper

spoof on the rock-music scene, following the adventures of a British group touring the United States to promote its controversial album Small Talk (Channel 4, Fri, 11.15pm-12.50am).

*First television showing

FICTION

Portrait of an artist in Paris

Scumbler by William Wharton (Penguin, £3.95)

Scumbler is an American painter living in Paris and many of the trappings of the artist-in-Paris tradition are lovingly laid out. There is inclined to be an aristocratic sculptor living downstairs and a Bohemian prostitute upstairs. At one point he is eating cold pizza in a bleak studio when a millionaire's wife sweeps in and begins to buy up all his paintings. Basically, however, it is more a simple story about a man coping with middle age, than one about art or Paris. Fortunately he has enough fantasies to liven things up.

Winter Journey by Ronald Frame (Triad Grafton, £2.50) There is often something tantalizing about a description of an adult relationship as seen through the eyes of a child. The details do not quite fit into a coherent pattern and the child's sense of powerlessness can distort as much as clarity.

In this story Ansoe, who is aged about 12, is travelling through Europe with her parents. As she sits in the back of the car she listens to her parents tearing each other apart and she recalls past events, isolated memories from her earlier childhood which help to explain the insults they are screaming at each other.

When we are told at the end that "the only history of importance is the history of what you once believed in, and what you came to believe in, and it is hard to decide who has believed in what, since we are left with only the fragments of a story. Perhaps that is the point.

The Fall of Kevin Walker by Alexander Gray (Penguin, £2.95) This is a moral fable mostly about being Scottish. Kevin Walker is the product of a strict Calvinistic upbringing who suddenly arrives in London to make his name. With the unassailable assets of naivety, self-centredness and his native accent he instantly lands a job in television - interviewing the great and the good. He becomes rich and successful. But it is not enough: he wants to put the world to rights and that is his downfall.

His father arrives from the North to cut him down to size in a painful television interview and his girlfriend abandons him. So he returns to Scotland to become a minister of the Church and to live unhappily ever after in a state of increasing narrow-mindedness. His girlfriend and the other hand settles down happily with an artist in Ladbrooke Grove. "It is easier for them", says Gray, "they are English".

Isabel Butterfield

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Anne Barnes

Bureaucratic battlegrounds

TELEVISION

Defence of the realm costs £700 a year for each taxpayer and has spawned the most impenetrable bureaucracy in Britain and vicious inter-service warfare.

The fighting may be conducted in sub-committees behind closed doors, but on the evidence of the first of four parts of M.O.D. (BBC 2, Wed, 8.10-9pm), it is more closely fought than the highly choreographed military manoeuvres in West Germany which the West always wins.

M.O.D. debunks much military strategy and claims that arguments in favour of increased air, sea or land power are in essence attempts by the respective services to wrest a bigger share of the defence budget.

The editing is fast, the commentary sharp and the glossy hi-tech images of mechanized war would do credit to a MoD recruiting film.

All of which is a far cry from The Four Horsemen (ITV, Wed, 9-10pm), the second part of David Munro's gory look at war in Eritrea, Mozambique, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cambodia and Vietnam, to name just six of 100 wars since the Second World War.

But whatever the country, the lament remains the same - the political conflict of the

Magic and mischief

RADIO

This evening Radio 4 has two tales to hold children from play and old men from the chimney corner. The children are being wooed - from telly rather than play, of course - by a dramatization of Alan Garner's novel The Weirdstone of Brisingamen (7-9pm). This has been carefully timed to encourage family listening before the children go to bed - an excellent idea.

The adaptation is by The Times's own David Wade, and the cast includes Edward de Souza and two children new to radio, Andrea Murphy and Mark Kingston. The plot concerns a brother and sister who become involved in a fight for the possession of a magic jewel which has been stolen by the Forces of Evil. Plenty of wizardry and enchantment.

The grown-ups' treat is a new Saturday night thriller serial, A Judgment in Stone (9.30-9.58pm). Ruth Rendell's chilling novel inaugurates a new weekly spot, in which good modern crime and suspense fiction will be read.

Yet another Radio 4 goodie this evening - the first of a new series called The Mischief Makers (10.30-11pm). Five men who were mad, bad and

dangerous to know will be featured, and the first is the odious Frederick Rolfe, also known as Baron Corvo, the author of Hadrian the Seventh and of much mischief.

Auden called him "one of the great masters of vituperation", and his victims were usually those who had initially befriended him. Margaret Howard presents this study in perversity, with Alec McCowen doing the readings.

Radio 3 has a new play by the talented Steve May. Powers Passing (tomorrow, 8.15-9pm) centres on a conversation in a North African resort between an elderly Canadian (Barry Morse) and an engaging West Indian (Norman Beaton) who apparently has something to sell. On Radio 4, one of the drama highlights is an adaptation of Henry James's mystery story Mand-Evryta (Wed, 3.02-3.47pm) by Joan O'Connor - who as a child was actually dandled on the author's knee.

Time for Verse (Radio 4, Thurs, 11.48-noon) returns with a new series and a new time slot and in the Mist of Silence (Radio 3, Fri, 8.10-8.30pm) offers the English premiere of poems by Irina Ranshinskaya, who is currently serving seven years' hard labour for "distributing poems which discredit the Soviet Union".

Nigel Andrew

world's most successful anachronism

what emerges is a favourable portrait of the hard-working family firm of Windsor Inc.

Rolf Seelmann-Eggebert was given access to the Royal Family, which he used to pry insights into, rather than fawning clichés on, the mechanics of being a Windsor.

Miami Vice (BBC1, Tues, 10-10.50pm), a fast-moving music and fashion show with criminal tendencies, is mutton dressed up as lamb. It is a very old format. But continuing its tradition of audience-pulling guest stars, it has singer-songwriter Phil Collins making his television acting debut and strutting around as a gaudily dressed conman.

Horizon: The Case of the Frozen Addict (BBC2, Mon, 8.05-9pm) is a fabulous medical mystery thriller, with the victims of "designed" heroin frozen into statue-like poses by appalling advanced symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. The clues are to be found in a maze of molecular structures and fingerprints of chemicals.

Three Up, Two Down (BBC1, Mon, 8.30-9pm), the coarse situation comedy of class conflict in a three-storey up-and-coming area, wastes the talents of Michael Elphick as the Jack-the-Lad basement lodger. Fortunately the over-amplified studio laughter leaves the best lines unscathed.

Although his German makers had intended an ironically critical approach to the

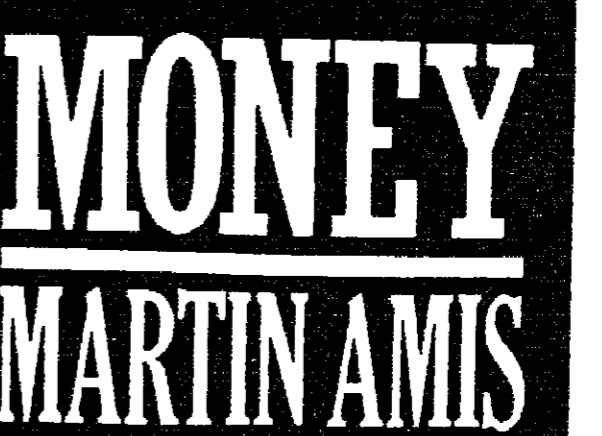
Bob Williams

'Sentence by sentence, Amis wipes the floor with all his contemporaries... a great novel'

MONEY

MARTIN AMIS

'Sentence by sentence, Amis wipes the floor with all his contemporaries... a great novel'



Time Out

THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS

BRAHMS SYMPHONY: Ned Sherrin has produced an affectionate memoir of his former writing collaborator, Carl Brahms, in Too Dirty for the Windmill (Constable, £12.95). The title refers to a theatre management's reaction to a risqué lyric penned by Brahms.



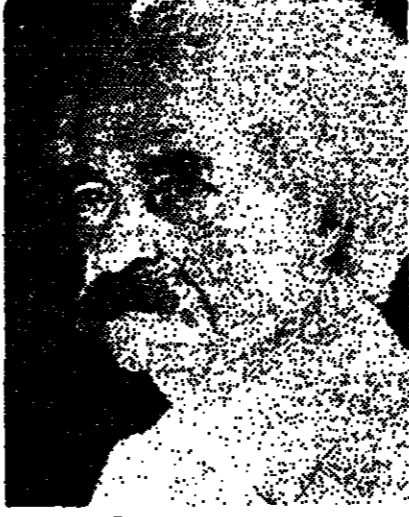
OPERA

FIRST OF JUNE: June Anderson, the coloratura soprano, makes her debut with the Royal Opera in the name part of Rossini's Gemiramide, this is its first performance at Covent Garden since 1887. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066), Wednesday and April 12, 15.



GALLERIES

FIZZ BIZ: Coca-Cola has reached the Concise Oxford Dictionary, and has its own exhibition celebrating 100 years of container design for the world's most popular "aerated non-alcoholic drink". Boilerhouse, Victoria and Albert Museum (01-581 5273). From Wednesday.



RADIO

HEAVEN'S GATE: Mark Twain, who was born 150 years ago, is the subject of White Suit Blues, commissioned from Adrian Mitchell by Radio 3 and based on Twain's Adventures in the Afterlife. Harry Towb plays the writer. Radio 3, Wednesday, 7.30-9.35pm.



THEATRE

LAUGHTER FUND: Pamela Stephenson features in Comic Relief Benefits, a famine-relief fundraising show directed by Rowan Atkinson. With Billy Connolly, Lenny Henry et al. Shaftesbury (01-379 5399). Tonight, 11.30pm; tomorrow, 7.30pm.



DANCE

STAR-CROSS'D: Gelsey Kirkland, former principal artist with the American Ballet Theatre, dances Juliet in a 21st anniversary production of Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet for the Royal Ballet. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066). From Friday, in repertory.

ARTSDIARY

Promise à Beckett

Typically, the Irish will be celebrating Samuel Beckett's "official" 80th birthday later this month with a lunch at which their foremost man of letters will not be present. Beckett, who lives in Paris, will remain there while his health is toasted in Dublin by Eire's literati.

But he has been more substantially honoured by being appointed Saot of the Irish equivalent of the Académie Française, called the Aosdana. This is a very new establishment trying to sound very ancient, but with the honourable enough intention of providing Irish men of letters with a £5,000 pension if they cannot make a bob or two out of their work. Needless to say, Beckett has not yet applied for their aims.

They're either very forgiving or very forgetful at the Old Vic. The forthcoming production of HMS Pinafore stars Alan Devlin, the Dublin actor who walked off the stage and into the history books by declaring: "— this, I'm off down the pub".

Devlin's mid-scene exit, in the Irish production of Pinafore, does not seem to worry the Vic management too much. "We're pretty sure he'll be all right", they say blithely. Should Devlin have cause to give a repeat performance, I can recommend a pub, appropriately called The Stage Door, some 45 thirds from the theatre. Thirty seconds if he runs.

You have to admire the bluff approach of Cornish farmer John Southern, who owns a remarkable collection of the works of Archibald Thorburn, considered by some to be the world's finest bird artist. The collection, which hung in a purpose-built gallery at his leisure park at Dobwalls, dismally failed to arouse the interest of the thousands of visitors. So Southern simply took the paintings and bulldozed the gallery to the ground.

Instead, he is spending £300,000 displaying the paintings in an audio-visual presentation which Prince Charles will inaugurate next month.

Power of love But for the romantic intervention of Henry Moore, Dame Barbara Hepworth might now be a superannuated teacher, tutting about the pay dispute while doing her knitting. In a new book by Moore's photographer friend John Hedgecoe, the sculptor recalls his early days at Leeds Arts School.

"When Barbara arrived she was just going to do an art school course and she would have become a drawing teacher at a secondary school", Moore recalls. "I became a bit sweet on her and we went out together. Through my influence she changed and wanted to become a sculptor." The rest, as they say, is history.

Silent heirs The National Gallery is remaining tight-lipped over their latest bequest, from the will of Jeffrey Daniels, the distinguished art historian. Daniels, the curator of the Geoffrey Museum in East London, died earlier this year. In his will he left a modest Old Master to the National Gallery. However, the NG are less than forthcoming about the painting's identity. "We cannot announce anything yet", they say. Apparently they will wait until May before deciding whether to take the painting.

A serious woman about the house



Paula Wilcox does not pull her punches. "The theatre", she says firmly, "is being starved of young talent. The situation is becoming desperate."

For an actress who has made a comfortable living across the dramatic spectrum from popular television comedy in Man About The House to Hedda Gabler in the West End, it seems an unusually altruistic statement.

But with the long established row over Equity's stringent admission rules newly resuscitated — the union is being taken to court by a non-member actor for its closed shop policy — the normally soft-spoken Miss Wilcox comes on hot and strong.

"It is a cause for concern when you see genuine would-be actors come through drama school only to find it virtually impossible to get an Equity ticket. I don't think those are the people for whom it should be made difficult", she says. "I'm very happy to see anyone who wants to join Equity get in. I do see why they want to keep the number down, but what is dreadful is that they are keeping out so many really genuine talents."

Paula Wilcox is back on the London stage, lured by The Beaux' Stratagem

of Dramatic Art's Richard O'Donoghue who described his establishment's attitude towards Equity's Catch 22 entry rules — you can't work without a ticket and you can't get a ticket until you've worked — as one of "anger".

"I know so many young people who have come out of drama school who are having to set up production companies of their own and flog around the country doing all sorts of things in order to get an Equity ticket". Miss Wilcox says. "It's very good experience for them perhaps, but it still doesn't guarantee them a ticket and it does seem an awful waste of time and energy and effort if at the end of the day they aren't going to be allowed to get one."

Referring to drama students being forced into pub entertainment, low-grade variety work and even stripping in order to get their Equity card, she adds: "It should be a hurdle to get into the theatre, but I worry at the same time about other people who are finding it terribly easy to get a ticket — that all you do is go and do a tour in the Middle East singing or something and they presto, you've got one."

ment because he shows two people who are ill-suited right from the start, who have deep-rooted differences of opinion, and should never have married. He also draws a picture of the differences between town and country values which are just as valid today.

"We tend to live a rarified sort of life in London chasing one thing after another and going to all the right places — it's a world away from what goes on outside."

When Miss Wilcox is outside the capital city she suffers from, if not dizziness, then certainly a strangely alien feeling. Her idea of a restful Saturday afternoon is not a stroll in the woods, but shouting her head off on the terraces supporting her favourite football team, Manchester United.

It is now 12 years since she sprang to national prominence with her part in Man About The House and at 36 Paula Wilcox ruefully admits that people still remember her best for that show. A recent repeat on Channel 4 has not helped her to break away from the stereotype created in some casting directors' minds, and a recent attempt to create a new character for herself, as a woman whose husband is in prison in the Willie Hall series The Bright Side, fell on stony ground. There will not be a second series.

"I thought it was very well written and I'm sorry Channel 4 didn't want to do any more because it's possible to make a serious point in comedy."

CONCERTS

CHUNG/LSO: Myung Whun Chung conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Dvorak's Symphony No 7. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8796). Today, 7.45pm.

TAKEDA/GUZMAN: Enrique Perez de Guzman is at the piano for Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody and Tchaikovsky's Takeda conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlioz's Carnival Roman Overture. Barbican, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

HANDLEY/NYO: Vernon Handley conducts the National Youth Orchestra in a fine programme — Sax's Garden of Fantasy and Vaughan Williams' Symphonic Dances and Vaughan Williams' abrasive Symphony No 4. Barbican, Mon, 7.45pm.

DIVINE POEM: Riccardo Muti conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Scriabin's rarely-heard Symphony No 3 "Divine Poem" and Izhak Perlman solos in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Tues, 7.30pm.

DORATY'S 80TH: Antal Dorati's 80th birthday concert is another all-Beethoven programme in which he conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brighton Festival Chorus and soloists in Symphony No 9 after Radu Lupu, has been heard in Piano Concerto No 2. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW ANGRY HOUSEWIVES: British premiere of US rock musical about four housewives who start a career in rock music. Diane Langton, Belinda Lang, Mary Maddox, Louise Gold. Lyric Studio, Hammersmith (01-741 2311). Previews Fri, Apr 12, 14, 15. Opens Apr 16.

THE GAMBLER: New version of a show seen in 1980. M. Smith, Bob Goody, Paul Bown and Philip Davis. Hampstead Theatre (01-722 9301). Previews Thurs, Fri, Apr 12, 14. Opens Apr 15.

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TIME: Cliff Richard (above, with Jodie Wilson) in a rock musical devised and created by Dave Clark. Larry Fuller directs. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 9562/636 8538). Previews today, Mon, Tues. Opens Wed.

EDMUND IRONSIDE: Shakespeare's "lost play" in its first production in 350 years. Bridge Lane Theatre, Bridge Lane, London SW11 (01-228 8828). Previews Tues. Opens Wed.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING: New production of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy of mistaken identity, with Gwen Watford, Michael Aldridge, Felicity Dean. Directed by Alan Strachan. Greenwich Theatre (01-557755). Previews today. Opens Mon.

SELECTED

ORPHANS: Albert Finney, Kevin Anderson and Jess Faneby grace an ordinary American psycho-drama with cracking performances. Apollo (01-437 2663). From Wed; transfer from Hampstead Theatre.

MEDEA: Eileen Atkins makes an impassioned and compellingly sympathetic wronged wife in Toby Robertson's stark version of Euripides. Young Vic (01-928 6383).

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

David Mamet's hard-edged, acerbic vision of duplicitous Chicago estate agents at work and play. Mout of Town (01-238 5566).

CHICHESTER: Annie Get Your Gun: Pop singer Suzi Quatro, with Edmund Hockridge, Eric Flynn, Barwick Kaler, directed by David Gilmore. Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Previews from Fri. Opens Apr 16.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Romeo and Juliet: Michael Bogdanov directs Sean Bean and Niamh Cusack. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Previews today, Mon; press night Tues; Wed, Thurs, Fri. In repertory.

DANCE

AMERICAN BALLROOM THEATRE: Opening an American dance season at beleaguered Sadler's Wells Theatre, four couples led by Pierre Dulaine and Yvonne Marcoux aim to evoke the romance of the Astaire/Rogers films. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) Thurs-April 19 except Sun; matinee April 20 only.

ROYAL BALLET: Romeo and Juliet is the week's highlight (Fri). On Mon David Bintley's Sons of Horus led by Deldre Eyden on a bill with Ashton's Birthday Offering and A Month in the Country. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

SCOTTISH BALLET: Paul Gnant's excellent production of A Midsummer Night's Dream performances at Glasgow today then goes to Aberdeen (Tues-April 12). Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). His Majesty's, Aberdeen (0224 638080).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: The popular Coppelia goes to Eastbourne for one week, Tues-April 12, matinees Wed and Sat. Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 36363).

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE LAND: The British landscape celebrated in black and white by Fay Godwin; haunting, magnificent and almost always devoid of people. The Photogallery, The Metropole Arts Centre, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent (0303 55070).

MOTION PICTURED: Edward Muybridge was the Victorian whose study of animals and human locomotion helped cinema develop. The Photogallery, The Forsters Arms, Shepherdess Walk, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 440140).

SPAIN IN CONFLICT: Photographs and posters which commemorate the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Arncliffe, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 259191).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

BUXTON FESTIVAL: Booking opens this week for programme of opera, concerts, theatre, exhibitions, films, jazz, children's and fringe events, July 19-Aug 10. Buxton Festival, Crescent Views, Hall Bank, Buxton, Derbyshire (0298 716577/1659).

CHARLIE GIRL: Booking opens this week for musical with Paul Nicholas, opening on June 19. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, London SW1 (01-834 1317).

HALLÉ CONCERTS: Booking opens this week for May concerts. Hallé Booking Office, 30 Cross Street, Manchester 2 (061 834 1712).

THE MASK OF ORPHEUS: World premiere of Harrison Birtwhistle's new opera.

THE TIMES CHOICE

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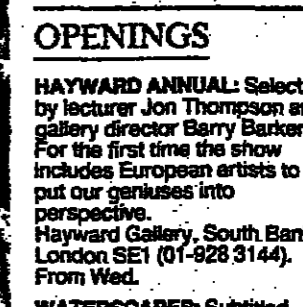
FILMS

OPENINGS

A ROOM WITH A VIEW (PG): After David Lean's A Passage to India, the Merchant-Ivory team present an earlier E.M. Forster novel. James Ivory directs Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliott and a choice supporting cast in a comic portrait of the English heart and mind. Curzon Mayfair (01-499 3737). From Fri.

HEARTBREAKERS (18): An essay in male chauvinist chic. ICA Cinema (01-630 3847). Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148). From Fri.

FRIGHT NIGHT (18): Excellent horror thriller from



writer-director Tom Holland, with Amanda Bearse (above) and Chris Sarandon as the affable vampires. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). From Fri.

SELECTED

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS (15): A film with the fidgets: visual jokes pile up and the plot, once glimpsed, is trite. But Julien Temple's musical fantasy bursts with energy. Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252). Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011).

NO SURRENDER (15): Alan Bleasdale's abrasive farce set on New Year's Eve in a seedy Liverpool club, with warring religious factions, geonics and hoodlums. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

ROCK AND JAZZ

DEPECHE MODE: Surburban electro-poppers follow Gary Numan in the footsteps of Kraftwerk. Tonight, Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow (041 248 3000). Mon, Whitley Bay Ice Rink (091 252 6240). Wed/Thurs, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).

STEPHANE GRAPPELLI: Lyrical fiddle from Django Reinhardt's ageless confrère. 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (01-636 8833).

FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS: After three well received singles and a hit album, Roland Gift's distinctive voice may be in danger of losing its novelty value. Tomorrow, Goldloggers, Chippingham (0248 56444). Mon, Rock City, Nottingham (0602 472544). Tues, Ritz, Manchester (061 236 4355). Wed, Tiffany's, Newcastle (0632 612529). Fri, Barrowlands Ballroom, Glasgow (041 221 0103).

JENNIFER RUSH: "The Power of Love", in which she

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: This is the week of the London International Opera Festival. This afternoon, free performances in Covent Garden piazza "Operation" presents a spoof Snow White at 2pm, followed at 3.30pm by singers from the London Savoyards in a Gilbert and Sullivan selection. At 7.30pm, a further performance of Die Fledermaus. On Tues at 7pm a regular performance of Arabella. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Smetana's folk opera, The Bartered Bride, returns this week in Elijah Moshinsky's colourful song-and-dance production. Performances on Thurs and April 12 at 7.30pm. Three performances of The Merry Widow tonight, Tues and Wed at 7.30pm, and one of Joachim Haerz's new Parsifal on Fri at 5pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

KENT OPERA: At Plymouth this week with three performances of Jonathan Miller's revived La Traviata (Tues and April 12, with a Prom performance on Wed). On Thurs and Fri, their new production of The Coronation of Poppo. All performances start at 7.30pm. Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0762 669595).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Concerts: Max Harrison; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cooper; Dances: John Percival; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Opera: Hilary Flash; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse



Unions ponder Murdoch offer of print plant

By Alan Hamilton

Unions reacted cautiously last night to an offer by Mr Rupert Murdoch to hand over to them his printing plant at Gray's Inn Road, London, for the production of a new left-wing daily newspaper.

Except for printing of *The Guardian*, which is produced there under contract, the Gray's Inn Road presses have been idle since January, when Mr Murdoch moved production of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to a new plant at Wapping, where they are now printed without staffing by the traditional print unions.

Announcing his offer on *Channel Four News* after several hours of talks with union leaders yesterday, Mr Murdoch said: "We would like to settle this dispute. We would like to pull the barbed wire down from around here (the Wapping plant) and get on with our business."

Mr Murdoch said: "This does give them an opportunity for jobs for those who have hardship and who have not got other jobs, and it also addresses the whole question of whether or not the whole labour movement gets a fair go in the press."

"We have no use for it (Gray's Inn Road), so as a settlement of the dispute we have put it forward and said 'Here, take it.' We will risk the extra competition."

Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat 82, interviewed on the same programme, said that offer had been made at talks with News International earlier yesterday, and admitted that it had been "quite a surprise".

Miss Dean said: "It needs to be considered. But it cannot be seen as an alternative to the company's responsibilities on jobs, and compensation for people who may not get jobs. But it is a factor, and something we will look at in a constructive way. It could be said to be good for the movement at large, but the first priority must be our members who worked for News International."

Further talks were to be held with News International in the next few days, at which clarification of the offer would be sought, Miss Dean said.

Move to end dispute

Continued from page 1

enough national newspaper support for their party."

In June 1983, the Labour peer Lord McCarthy produced at the request of the TUC a £28,000 study into the feasibility of the unions launching a new daily newspaper that would "reflect the aims and interests of the Labour and trade union movement".

He recommended that if the unions could raise £6.7 million, a 32-page, six-day tabloid newspaper could be launched that would make a small profit selling 300,000 copies a day, and £6.4 million annual profit if sales rose to 500,000. Running costs would be £13.3 million a year, but the lower sales figure and £6.5 million for the higher one.

Lord McCarthy observed, encouragingly: "Readership

A spring clean for 'Monty'



Franc set to fall sharply

Continued from page 1

Italy also had to devalue within the system last year. The devaluation brought the total number of realignments within the EMS to eight since the system was created in March 1979. A realignment has been expected for some time. The Dutch guilder is expected to follow the mark up within the system, while the Italian lira and Irish punt are both expected to take lower positions with the French franc.

Whether the result is presented as an upward revaluation of the mark or a devaluation of the franc depends on the details of the negotiation.

Discussions between the ministers this weekend had been planned for months in preparation for next week's meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

French bombshell, page 21

Lord Montgomery, son of the late Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, yesterday went to inspect restoration work being carried out on his father's old tank at the Army's armoured vehicle sub-depot at Ledgeshall, near Andover, Hampshire. His father is pictured in the tank, right, in 1942.

The converted Grant Mark Two tank, nicknamed "Monty", was used as Field Marshal Montgomery's tactical headquarters from the start of the El Alamein offensive to the end of the war in Europe.

Although the tank will be restored to running order, it is set for a far less hectic life. The Army will hand it over to the Imperial War Museum, in London, in September.

against local constituency party attempts at disciplinary action in places such as Cardiff South and Penarth. Mr James Callaghan's constituency, Stevenage, Ipswich, Exeter and Mansfield.

The change of party consti-



tution will introduce a new disciplinary code to reinforce the present vague rule under which constituency party general committees are given the duty to take all necessary steps to safeguard the constitution, programme, principles and policy of the Labour Party within the constituency."

Labour Weekly said that although about 40 Militant supporters had been expelled by local parties under that rule within the last two years, senior party officials were "concerned at what they see as a growing trend of legal action against the party on procedural grounds"

Kinnock threatens Militant purge

Continued from page 1

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although about 40 Militant supporters had been expelled by local parties under that rule within the last two years, senior party officials were "concerned at what they see as a growing trend of legal action against the party on procedural grounds"

Letter from the Khyber Pass Two sheep for Sir Geoffrey

In the casualty ward of the International Red Cross Hospital close to the frontier in Afghanistan, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday came face to face with the reality of the Afghan war.

A young Afghan mujahidin guerrilla was having his face bandaged. His knee was propped in the air and the flesh where his shin and foot should have been dangled like so much steak.

Upstairs another man was lying exhausted on his bed. The doctor uncovered his legs and showed the mass of puncture wounds. "He has splinter lesions all over," said Dr Jorma Salmeala, a surgeon from Finland.

A young boy no more than 12 years old, a pixie-like triangular smile on his face for the visitors, lay by an open window with flies buzzing around him. His leg was also propped in the air.

"It is very difficult to deal with cases of this sort," said the doctor. "He is a haemophilic too. Bleeding starts without any warning."

In a ward for women, only Lady Howe and Mrs Gabriele Fytis-Walker, the wife of the British Ambassador, were allowed, since Afghan men are protective of the modesty of their women. Inside two girls showed their amputated stumps where they had walked on land mines.

"Twenty per cent of our patients are women and children," said Dr Salmeala.

The hospital has 100 beds. At times of crisis it can take 150 patients by piling them on balconies and verandahs. Last October when I visited it, there were 270 patients.

"It is quite shattering," said Sir Geoffrey. And the speeches on the Afghan situation later in the day were plainly affected by his visit.

"I have been profoundly moved by what I have seen," he told a gathering of tribal elders in Katchi Garhi refugee camp on the outskirts of Peshawar.

"Afghanistan is, in truth, a bleeding wound," Sir Geoffrey told the refugees, repeating a phrase used by Mr

Mikhail Gorbachev during the recent Soviet party plenum.

Sitting or squatting on the ground in front of him, wearing white turbans or *chitrali* caps of round rolled felt, the tribesmen may have felt faintly puzzled, since it was only a week since the US Attorney General, Mr Edwin Meese, had compared the Russian struggle against the Afghan struggle against the British struggle against the American struggle against the British, and seemed to be comparing King George III with Mr Gorbachev.

The Foreign Secretary however dispelled their doubts and announced that Britain's aid to the Afghan refugees will be increased this year to £4.8 million — up by 17% on last year's total.

Later he said his officials drove up the barren, grey, of the rock-strewn Khyber Pass, past the memorials to British regiments still decorating the granite walls of Kipling's "Dark Deities", to Michni Point just above the border with Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Mahboob Ali Shah, commanding the local regiment of the Khyber Rifles, pointed out historical antiquities, the forts built by such invaders as Tamerlane, which now blend into the jagged skyline where the mujahidin and the Afghan troops exchange fire.

At the Khyber Rifles officers' mess a line of tribal Maliks garlanded Sir Geoffrey and his wife profusely with tinsel. And, without ever having heard of Mr Denis Healey's remarks comparing an attack by Sir Geoffrey with being savaged by a dead sheep, presented him with not one but two sheep, also garlanded and clothed in rich cotton.

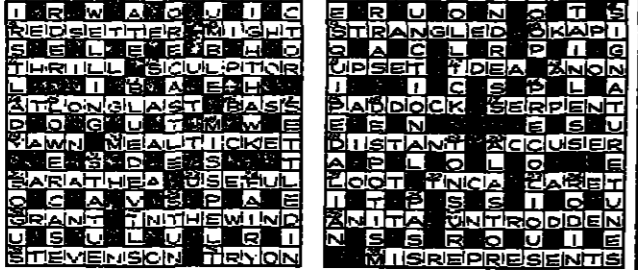
"We shall cut and eat them tonight in his honour," said the chief Malik present, Nematullah Shinwary.

Last night the Foreign Secretary arrived in Lahore, where he will meet leaders of commerce and industry before moving to Karachi. He leaves tonight for home.

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,006



Today's events

Concert by the Downshire Chamber Players, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, WC2, 7.30.

Recital by The Holburne Group, Redditch Ecumenical Centre, Worcs, 7.30.

Concert by the Jerusalem String Trio, Mason Croft, Stratford upon Avon, 8.

Concert by the Insurance Orchestra, Dorking Halls, 7.30.

Piano recital by Philip Langer, Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Recital by Trudy Helen Brown (harp) and Timothy Arnold (piano), St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, 7.30.

Organ recital by Kimberley Marshall, Christ Church, Oxford, 8.

General

Model and Hobby World: Alexandra Palace and Park, Wood Green, N22, 10 to 6 (ends April 6).

The Year of the Comet: help Paul Doherty create a large mural showing Halley's comet; National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10, 10.15 to 4.

Hippo day at London Zoo: facts, fun and food for children; London Zoo, Regent's Park, NW1, 11 to 5.

Scottish Antiques Fair 1986: Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh, 11 to 5.

Tomorrow's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the National Children's Orchestra, attends a concert by the orchestra at St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, 4.25.

Music

Jazz, Latin and Greek music by 4 on 4 Quartet; Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, W6, 12 to 2.

Concert by the Radio Leicester Big Band, Charwood Theatre, Market Place, Loughborough, 7.30.

Concert by the London Mozart Players: The Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading, 7.30.

Concert by the Bampton Singers, orchestra and local soloists; St Mary's Church, Bampton, 7.30.

Gardens open

Today

DEVON: Westpark, Yeaton off A373, 7.15 to 8.30 or Bank, if earlier. Faversham road: half acre of trees, shrubs, herb borders, bulbs; also open April 12, 2 to 6.

Today and other days

COVENTRY: The Old Vic, St Dominic, nr Salsbery; terraced garden, ponds, stream, ground struts; every day to end of October, 11 to 6.30 or Bank, if earlier.

GLoucestershire: Hookey Manor, Hildate Barn, Clipping Campden; one of the most outstanding English gardens; a series of small gardens with a 648 collection of shrubs, trees, herbs, cactus and other interesting plants; every day except Tuesdays and Fridays until the end of October, 11 to 6 or 1 hour before sunset. May be overcrowded on Bank Holiday weekends and New Sunday.

OXFORDSHIRE: Marton's Hall Farm, Longworth, 8.15 to 8.30 or Bank, if earlier. Kingstons Bagpipe; plantman's garden; many plants of interest to flower growers; great flowers; every Sunday, Thursday and Bank Holiday until November 26, 11 to 6, 27, May 17 and 18, 2 to 6.

WILTSHIRE: Stourton House, Stourton, 2m NW of Mera, A303 on road to Longworth, 8.15 to 8.30 or Bank, if earlier. Bulbs, shrubs, spring flowers; famous for great flowers; every Sunday, Thursday and Bank Holiday until November 26, 11 to 6, 27, May 17 and 18, 2 to 6.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Little Combe, St Lawrence, 2m W of Ventnor; 4 acres, water gardens, spring flowers, shrubs, rock garden, lawn, pleasant and well-tended; collection; 2 to 6.30, or by appointment (0853 85252).

Rates for small denomination bank notes, coins as issued by Barclays Bank Plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 381.1

London: The FT Index closed down 6 at 1429.2.

In the garden

Roses should be pruned now and given a fertilizer. Give them another feed towards the end of the month. It is unlikely that the frosts will be hard enough to damage new shoots.

Provided the ground is not too wet, firm the soil round any trees, shrubs or other plants that were planted before the frosts came as the roots may have been loosened. Young trees and shrubs rocked about in the recent gales also need firming and the ties holding them to stakes, posts, pergolas or walls checked.

Nylon ties on trees need particular checking as they do not stretch and after a year or two may be cutting into bark which could kill the branch.

There is still time to plant trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Quick growing conifers such as *Cupressocyparis leylandii* and the Russian vine *Polygonum baldschuanicum*, a very quick grower with masses of white flowers in autumn, can be used to cover a shed or garage.

Jerusalem artichokes, which will grow five to six feet high in the summer, can be used to screen a vegetable plot. RH

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 24).

Share	Year	Mid	Thurs	Fri	Week
1	+1	+7	+2	+4	
2	+5	+5	+3	+4	
3	-1	+7	+2	+6	
4	-1	+4	+3	+5	
5	+1	+5	+2	+5	
6	+5	+5	+2	+7	
7	+2	+5	+2	+7	
8	+2	+7	+3	+4	
9	-1	+5	+2	+7	
10	+5	+7	+1	+5	
11	+1	+5	+3	+5	
12	-1	+8	+3	+8	
13	+5	+4	+2	+5	
14	+3	+5	+4	+5	
15	+2	+5	+2	+7	
16	+1	+4	+4	+5	
17	+2	+3	+3	+8	
18	+4	+3	+4	+5	
19	+4	+5	+2	+6	
20	+2	+4	+2	+4	
21	+3	+4	+4	+8	
22	+1	+4	+2	+8	
23	+2	+5	+2	+6	
24	+4	+5	+2	+4	
25	-1	+2	+2	+8	
26	-1	+4	+2	+5	
27	+5	+3	+2	+8	
28	+5	+3	+3	+5	
29	+5	+3	+1	+5	
30	+2	+2	+3	+5	
31	+6	+3	+5	+4	
32	+3	+5	+3	+5	
33	+3	+4	+7	+8	
34	+6	+3	+5	+4	
35	+2	+4	+6	+7	
36	+2	+5	+5	+4	
37	+2	+2	+3	+8	
38	+2	+2	+3	+5	
39	+3	+2	+7	+5	
40	+2	+2	+2	+7	

Weather forecast

An anticyclone to the NW of Scotland is drifting only slowly SE.

6 am to midnight

London, central S, SW, NW, central N England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny periods, scattered light showers of rain, sleet or hail developing during the day but dying out from late afternoon to give a clear evening; wind light or moderate, max temp 10 (4F).

SE, E, NE England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals and showers of rain, sleet or hail, most frequent on coasts but dying out inland during the evening; wind N to NE light or moderate but fresh at times in coastal areas; max temp 10 (4F).

Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers of rain, sleet or hail with snow on the higher ground at times but dying out after dark; wind N light or moderate; max temp 10 (4F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny periods, perhaps an isolated shower; wind N light; max temp 10 (4F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Showers in the S and E. Sunny periods in the W and N, frosty at night away from the E coast areas.

High Tides

NOON TODAY

London Bridge 11.42, 3.5, 12.01, 6.5

Aberdeen 5.12, 10.5, 5.51, 10.7

Avonmouth 5.22, 10.1, 5.10, 10.3

Belfast 4.57, 9.9, 5.36, 10.6

Cardiff 6.03, 10.7, 6.47, 10.9

Devonport 4.01, 8.4, 4.45, 8.5

Dover 4.55, 9.5, 4.54, 9.6

Falmouth 3.21, 4.4, 4.15, 4.3

Glasgow 31.17, 4.1, 10.28, 3.5

Hull 4.14, 7.4, 4.43, 7.5

Holyhead 8.47, 4.3, 9.32, 4.8

Leamington 4.42, 6.1, 4.50, 6.3

Liverpool 10.02, 4.1, 10.28, 3.5

Loughs 4.13, 7.4, 4.43, 7.5

Manchester 4.31, 5.6, 5.06, 5.6

Marazion 4.27, 4.01, 4.27, 4.01

Oban 4.44, 5.4, 4.15, 4.3

Plymouth 3.08, 4.5, 3.50, 4.5

Portsmouth 3.48, 3.5, 10.31, 4.1

Sharncliffe 5.24, 9.5, 10.12, 5.5

Southampton 4.26, 7.7, 4.16, 7.8

Swansea 4.53, 4.5, 2.15, 4.6

Torquay 4.26, 3.7, 10.22, 3.5

Wilton-on-Avon 10.02, 3.7, 10.22, 3.5

Tide measured in metres. Tim-3.26081.

Lighting-up time

Today

London 8.10 pm to 5.58 am

Bristol 8.20 pm to 5.05 am

Edinburgh 8.58 pm to 6.01 am

Manchester 8.21 pm to 6.01 am

Memorandum 8.30 pm to 6.16 am

Tomorrow

London 8.12 pm to 6.53 am

Bristol 8.21 pm to 6.03 am

Edinburgh 8.51 pm to 5.59 am

Manchester 8.32 pm to 6.17 am

Plymouth 8.32 pm to 6.17 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday, C, cloud; 1, fair; 2, rain; 3, sun; 4, C, F

Belfast 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Birmingham 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Bristol 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Cardiff 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Edinburgh 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Glasgow 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

London 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Manchester 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Nottingham 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Sheffield 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Southampton 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Swansea 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Torquay 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

Wilton-on-Avon 8.46, 46.0, 5.0, 41.0

These are Thursday's figures

Bond winners

Winning premium bond numbers in the April draw for £10,000 prizes are: 4FT 217679 (winner lives in Angus),

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1420.9 (-5.0) FT-SE 100 1709.7 (-7.9) USM (Datastream) N/A

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4490 (-0.0110) W German mark 3.4624 (-0.0182) Trade-weighted 76.4 (-0.1)

Share sale at Reuters

United Newspapers has sold its entire holding of 17.46 million shares in Reuters, the news agency, at 440p a share, the newspaper group, which includes the Daily and Sunday Express, said yesterday.

New jobber

Hill Samuel is setting up a wholly owned jobbing company which would start trading on April 28. The new company, called Wood Street Securities, will initially job in investment trusts, insurance stocks, oil majors and leading pharmaceuticals. It will be headed by Mr Chris Cartwright and will be integrated into the stockbroker Wood Mackenzie after big bang in October.

Australian cut

The National Mutual Royal Bank of Australia has cut its prime lending rate from 19 to 18 per cent - the lowest in Australia.

Tokyo rate

The Bank of Japan plans no further cuts to its 4 per cent domestic discount rate, the governor, Mr Satoshi Sumita, said in Tokyo.

Nordin stake

The offer by Mr Ake Nordin to buy Campari International shares not owned by him or his family trust has lapsed. Acceptances were received for 1.47 per cent, taking his stake to 49.23 per cent.

Share sale

Turner & Newall is reducing its interest in its South African subsidiary, Turner & Newall Holdings, from 78 per cent to 51 per cent by offering shares to the public. The proceeds will be about £4 million.

Premier move

Premier Consolidated Oil has written to Goal Petroleum proposing that Goal co-opt to its board of directors Mr Roland Shaw, chairman and managing director of Premier.

\$30m issue

Hill Samuel & Co, the merchant bank, is to lead manager of a financing - through the issue of convertible Eurobonds - of up to \$30 million (£20.5 million) by Cranges Exploration, of Canada, for exploration and development costs of existing properties. The issue terms will be determined this month.

Merger talks

Good Relations, the public relations company, is involved in preliminary talks which may lead to a merger.

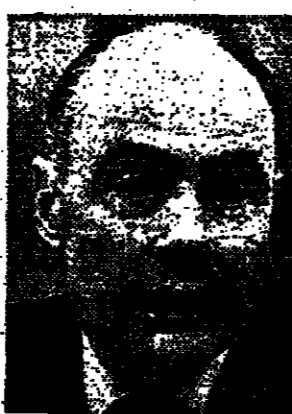
Lee success

The application list for 16.66 million shares at 180p each in Lee International closed yesterday oversubscribed.

Lloyds makes surprise bid for Standard Chartered

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the smallest of the big four UK clearers, surprised the City yesterday with an announcement that it wanted to buy Standard Chartered, the overseas bank, creating a banking group with assets of over £70 billion.



Sir Jeremy Morse asked for talks

The news sent Standard Chartered's share price racing up by 30 per cent but the bank was quick to reject the Lloyds approach, prompting speculation that a rival bid would not be long in coming.

Lloyds said that its chairman, Sir Jeremy Morse, had approached Standard Chartered asking for talks which would lead to a recommended offer for the bank worth 750p per share, valuing Standard at £1.2 billion.

The announcement sent Standard shares up well above the offered price, from 639p to 830p. Lloyds shares fell 7p to 632p although other clearing bank shares rose during the day.

There have been recurrent rumours for months about a bid for Standard but Lloyds was not considered a likely contender. Mr Michael McWilliam, group managing director of Standard, said yesterday: "The approach from Lloyds has come as a surprise and is not welcomed."

Experts in the City now believe that Lloyds will almost certainly have to raise its offer and that a rival bidder is likely to come forward. Names which have been mentioned recently as possible buyers include Midland Bank, Hongkong & Shanghai, Royal Bank of Scotland and Trustee Sav-

ings Bank. A bid from a foreign bank is also thought possible. Any bid could only succeed with the approval of the Bank of England.

Mr Brian Pitman, Lloyds chief executive, said that combining with Standard Chartered would create a banking group with the widest international spread of any European banking organisation. Last year Lloyds made pre-tax profits of £561 million, and Standard Chartered £268 million.

"Lloyds is strong in Britain, Europe and Latin America while Standard is strong in the Far East, Middle East, Africa and the US", Mr Pitman said. "Standard has established domestic banking businesses in places where entry is now restricted - it offers us a way into markets we cannot get into ourselves."

Lloyds would afford the bid through an offer probably made up of 50 per cent cash and 50 per cent preference shares, Mr Pitman said. Following the sale of Lloyds Bank California, announced earlier this year, and other recent disposals, the bank will have £450 million in cash to invest. The purchase of Standard

would significantly reduce Lloyds' dependence on the UK market from which it earns 80 per cent of its profits. "The UK market is increasingly competitive and likely to become less profitable. The acquisition of Standard would raise our overseas earnings to around 40 per cent of total profits."

Despite its widespread international activities Standard Chartered has little exposure in Britain. It is known to want a secure UK earnings base and failed in an attempt to buy Royal Bank of Scotland five years ago. But the bank would not comment further yesterday on its reasons for rejecting the Lloyds approach.

The move would greatly increase Lloyds Bank's exposure to South Africa. Although Standard last year reduced its shareholding in Standard, the South African Banking operation, from 43 to 39 per cent, the group derived 12 per cent of its profits from South Africa in 1985.

There was scepticism in the City yesterday over the increased exposure to the US that Standard would bring to Lloyds.

Argyll and Brussels hold talks

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

The European Commission's competition department officials held talks this week with Argyll Group now fighting Guinness to take over the Distillers Company. It signals close interest by Brussels in the prospect of Guinness adding Distillers, Britain's biggest whisky producer, to its Bells whisky subsidiary.

The competition department is fact-finding and the talks have apparently been held in this context. If the commission were sufficiently concerned about the effects on competition it could freeze any merger between Guinness and Distillers. This would be an interim measure while the situation was fully assessed on competition grounds.

So far such a move seems unlikely but what does seem to be opening up is the prospect that longer-term competition problems might arise. These developments have come as Argyll was refused an interim interdict, or injunction, in the Court of Session at Edinburgh in a case Argyll has brought to stop the Guinness bid for Distillers. It has been argued that a merger, under European law, would lead to abuse of a dominant position. The case will continue, Argyll said yesterday.

In Brussels it was indicated that investigations at this stage were aimed at assessing whether there was any potential problem. Guinness has already satisfied Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, that by selling off some Distillers brands to Lonrho's brand share in the United Kingdom market would be sufficiently reduced.

A more crucial factor being looked at in Brussels is the share of Scotch whisky distilling the merged companies would have. The Lonrho deal would leave distilling of the sold-off brands with Distillers. Although a 25 per cent market share is under regulations the benchmark for competition assessment to start, in practice the commission competition department regards 40 per cent or more market share as normally the crucial breakpoint.

'Sleeping giant' in the spotlight

By Alison Eadie

The £1.8 billion contested bid for Woolworth Holdings by Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, will put the spotlight firmly on the people who run the former "sleeping giant" of the high street.

The glare of publicity will be somewhat of a strain for the low key management team headed by the unassuming, but well regarded chief executive Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy. Mr Mulcahy came to Woolworth in November 1982 as part of the three man management team headed by Mr John Beckett, the former chairman of British Sugar. Mr Beckett recruited Mr Mulcahy and Mr Nigel Whittaker to British Sugar in 1977 and all three left in 1982 when S&W Berisford acquired the company after a bitter bid battle.

In November 1982 they reorganised as the new management of Woolworth, bought out from its American parent for £310 million with the backing of a consortium of financial institutions. The new management gave itself seven years to put Woolworth right, but it is now going to have to justify its performance when it is only halfway through its term.

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, has criticized the directors of Woolworth "because they are not retailers". Mr Mulcahy's academic background is in science and his business experience is largely financial. Mr Whittaker has two law degrees and was a corporate lawyer for Hoffman La Roche before joining British Sugar. The new non-executive chairman, who has replaced the recently retired Mr Beckett, is Mr Kenneth Durham, chairman of Unilever.

Although they had no retailing experience before they joined Woolworth, the directors point out that they have learnt a lot in the past three and a half years and they have hired a strong band of experienced retailers at just below group board level. A leading London head-



Geoffrey Mulcahy faces glare of publicity

Guinness. The marketing director has brought in six managers from various retailers including W H Smith, Argyll Group and Boots. The present management therefore believes it is well qualified to run Woolworth. It also believes its institutional backers are happy with its performance so far. The return the institutions have made on their investment is magnificent.

The takeover price in 1982 was only £310 million, yet Woolworth's value in the stock market yesterday rose to more than £2 billion. Both Warburg Investment Management and Robert Fleming, which hold 14 per cent and 10 per cent of Woolworth's equity respectively, said they would not be such large holders if they were not happy with their investment.

Demerger revises Extel bid

By Cliff Feltham

One of the City's most presumptuous takeover bids took on a more serious dimension yesterday when the newly-created Demerger Corporation launched a revised offer for Extel, the news and information group, backed by cash.

Demerger's earlier £170 million all-paper bid received support from under 1 per cent of Extel shareholders at the first closing date. It still plans to break Extel into separate parts and float them off on the stock market, but now there is an underwritten cash alternative of £4 a share in addition to a straight share swap.

On the stock market Extel shares finished 12p higher at 405p. But the terms were again rejected by the Extel board which it said "grossly undervalued" the company. The new proposals include plans to reshape Extel's news and sports services which Demerger claims are coming under increasing threat from rival sources.

Mr Peter Earl, a director of Demerger and managing director of its merchant bank (Incip), said: "Shareholders in Extel might wonder why their own board has not gone out and arranged the sort of deals we have fixed up."

Mr Earl said that Extel's £4.9 million profits from its sports and news services - representing 45 per cent of total earnings - were coming under attack from the Press Association, its former partners, and from its former clients, the bookmakers themselves.

A key figure in the battle is the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, head of Mirror Group Newspapers, who sits on an 11.7 per cent stake in Extel. He was yesterday studying the new terms.

Mr Maxwell said last night: "The offer is clearly serious and is being seriously considered by me as no doubt it deserves to be by all other shareholders."

Hillsdown cuts through the Berisford tangle

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Hillsdown Holdings had been a candidate to bid for S&W Berisford ever since it built up its 10 per cent stake in the nominally larger sugar and commodities group. It did so yesterday with such acute timing that a sharp rise in its own shares raised the value of its all-share offer from £430million to nearly £480million during the course of the day. The offer, or some variation of it, has every chance of success, forming the crucial stage in the possible creation of a new diversified food group on the largest scale.

David Thompson and his partner Harry Solomon have built their empire so fast that, even after the flotation of Hillsdown last year, few outside the City are aware that its £1 billion turnover carries so much influence on the meat, poultry, egg and canned and processed food shelves of the supermarkets. That success was built on opportunistic buying of troubled companies in unfashionable businesses. Berisford falls neatly into the Hillsdown strategy, even though its main earner, the British Sugar Corporation, is in as healthy a state as market conditions will allow.

The merger of Ephraim Margulies' commodity trading interests with BSC was only just allowed by the Monopolies Commission and has in practice proved beyond the City group's management capacity. The commodity side has suffered badly recently and the board seems to have fallen out after Gordon Percival, who was put into run BSC, tried to arrange a management buyout. In the end Mr Margulies was reduced to attempting to sell the sugar side to the

Italian Ferruzzi in a complex deal that was aimed at him leading a buyout of the recapitalised commodity arm. In the event, Ferruzzi has sold out its interest in Berisford to Hillsdown for a 3 per cent stake and talks on co-operation in Europe and further afield, though in other foodstuffs rather than sugar. That scupper Mr Margulies' plan. The other interested party Tate & Lyle, also sitting on around 10 per cent, would certainly not be allowed to buy BSC. Hillsdown, on the other hand, can avoid a monopoly vetoing if it wishes to honour the commitments given by Berisford. Since Berisford seemed prepared to deal with the Italians at well below the present bid price, the main question marks may well be whether Hillsdown will need to offer an underwritten cash alternative and whether, on reflection, the stock market remains so sanguine about the tremendous debt burden Hillsdown will take on. Hillsdown and its advisers Klienwort Benson are certainly aware of the problem. Kleinwort has bought Hillsdown's stake in Berisford to lessen the cash strain by converting it into shares and the bidders seem prepared to sell Berisford's property business. They may also sell the commodity trading part back to Mr Margulies or run it down. Hillsdown will want to sort the combined balance sheet out quickly for the gleam in its management's eye has already lit on Berisford's strategic stake in Ranks Hovis MacDougall, which will no doubt be pondering defensive measures already.

treasury secretary, are sharply opposed to the idea. Despite big sectoral weaknesses in the US economy associated with the oil price collapse, they believe that overall, and over time, the US economy will benefit greatly.

But the new jobless figures have put pressure on the free market advocates. Despite the fact that the March figure was down in actual terms, from 7.3 per cent in February, most economists say unemployment went up. The February number was an aberration, because of bad weather and flooding which reduced hiring in key industries. Without these factors, unemployment in February would have measured an estimated 7.1 per cent, up sharply from 6.7 per cent in January. Overall, since the November-January period, 500,000 jobs have been lost. The fact that this trend continued and actually increased in March is worrying to officials who believe that the good effects of the falling dollar and falling oil prices have yet to offset big weaknesses in farming, manufacturing, energy and banking.

White House split widens

Unemployment figures for March have sharpened the schism between Reagan Administration officials over the good and bad effects of collapsing oil prices. The jobless figure, at 7.2 per cent, showed a continuing weakness in the economy, especially in the manufacturing and energy sectors where 80,000 jobs were lost last month alone.

It lent public support to the views of some Administration officials, notably Vice-President George Bush and the energy secretary John Herrington, that special help is now needed for the depressed oil industry to save jobs and domestic production while avoiding a dangerous dependence on imported oil. Mr Bush and others in a sharply divided Reagan Administration support a new proposal to prop up marginal domestic producers by doubling or tripling the 50 cent a barrel excise tax on imported oil. They want to use the proceeds to buy oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from domestic producers.

Donald Regan, the White House chief of staff, and James Baker, the

treasury secretary, are sharply opposed to the idea. Despite big sectoral weaknesses in the US economy associated with the oil price collapse, they believe that overall, and over time, the US economy will benefit greatly.

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French shatter the peace at finance ministers' retreat

By Richard Owen, Sarah Hogg and Diana Geddes

A small Dutch holiday resort near the West German border, which should have been the venue for a quiet, routine meeting of EEC finance ministers this weekend, has suddenly become the centre of crucial negotiations over realignment of the European Monetary System (EMS).

The finance ministers, including Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, are meeting at Ootmarsum, today and tomorrow. The gathering could be contentious, and Mr Mark Eyskens, the Belgian finance minister, yesterday said he saw no technical reasons for devaluing the Belgian franc in the wake of the Bank of France's decision to suspend official currency quotations yesterday.

Mr Eyskens said the French move had taken him by surprise, and European currencies had appeared stable after the recent French election.

The EEC's monetary committee, composed of senior officials from national finance ministries, laid the ground work for the talks yesterday. EMS realignment has political implications for two EEC member states facing elections

expected to lead to an upvaluation in the mark, and possibly the Dutch guilder, against other European currencies and particularly the French franc. The rate between the mark and the franc is expected to be adjusted by at least 5 per cent, and probably more.

The Bank of France sounded the alert for a realignment when it suspended official currency quotations. This followed a sharp fall in the franc in New York on Thursday night.

Agence France Presse, the semi-official French news agency, quoted "well informed sources" as saying that the realignment within the European Monetary System (EMS) would be accompanied by an "abolition" of French exchange control. However, Le Monde suggested that the controls would simply be "reduced".

The prime minister's office declined comment. The French stock exchange shot up to a record high yesterday in anticipation of the move, marking an increase of nearly 40 per cent since the beginning of the year, while the Bureau de Change in the banks virtually closed down,

PREVIOUS EMS REALIGNMENTS table with columns for date, currency, and percentage change.

Oppenheimer advertisement with large text 'Our style is worlds apart.' and a bar chart showing performance over 1, 3, 5, and 7 years.

MARKET SUMMARY table listing various stock indices and prices.

TEMPUS

Between the devil and the deep North Sea

One by one the oil companies have announced cuts in their exploration budgets. The cuts have become more savage as the oil price has sunk lower and lower. Expenditure on drilling is the most flexible part of the capital budget, and cutting back is the quickest way to make an impact on strained finances.

Much more difficult is deciding what to do about undeveloped oilfields where most of the evaluation and design work has been done and sanction to begin ordering hardware was expected during the next 12 months. What matters for these fields is what the oil price is going to be when they start producing from 1990 onward.

It will be impossible to make sensible business judgments about future developments until the oil market shows signs of settling, preferably above \$18 per barrel. Even at this level the banks will be unwilling to give non-recourse project finance to some projects and this will make it difficult for the financially weaker companies to borrow money for their share of development.

There is no evidence that where orders have already been initiated, such as Shell's Tern and Eider fields, development will be halted. However, there must be a great deal of hard thinking going on about how to proceed with new developments such as T-block and Miller.

T-block was always a marginal project, but with oil at \$25 it looked attractive enough to Agip and Century Power & Light to pay Phillips \$182 million for its 35 per cent share. Agip has now been confirmed as operator in place of Phillips and the consortium, which also includes Petrofina and Lasmio, is faced with some difficult decisions.

More appraisal drilling needs to be done on T-block. As well as trying to establish additional reserves, much effort will go into finding ways of cutting the capital cost of the development. Until detailed engineering studies are completed to quantify the scope for reducing costs, it is impossible to work out the returns.

But it is clear that to have any chance at all of going

ahead T-block needs an oil price of at least \$18, and it may not be viable at that. Originally, it had been hoped to submit the Annex B in the first quarter of 1987. Slippage is now inevitable.

The Miller oil field is somewhat more robust. This project is resilient at \$15-\$18 per barrel, but only if it is a no-frills development. Every avenue is being explored to reduce capital costs, not just on the existing design but also looking at other methods of going ahead.

Alternatives include the possibility of siting the sour gas facilities onshore rather than on the platform, and using the Horton method of construction, where the platform was loaded up in harbour and floated out virtually complete. BP has won the operatorship of Miller from Conoco. The other partners are Enterprise and Santa Fe.

For any project to be approved, all the partners in the consortium must believe in it. As no one is making any bets on how long the oil price is going to remain low, it is unlikely that we will see much money being spent on new capital projects in the North Sea until the oil price outlook becomes much clearer.

Britannia Arrow

Britannia Arrow has produced annual results which, if nothing else, should reassure shareholders that the successful defence against Guinness Peat was not wasted effort. Whatever a marriage with GP would have produced, it is clear that Britannia is capable of continuing strong growth on its own.

The cost of the bid defence came out at £2.4 million, or 1.5p a share. On the other hand, the bid helped to push Britannia's shares from a modest 90p a few months ago to nearly 150p yesterday.

Britannia has met its forecast, made at the time of the bid, of a 4.2p full-year dividend, up by 68 per cent from the previous year's 2.5p. Pre-tax profits were up 40 per cent - from £14 million to £19.7 million - with satisfactory growth in most areas of its business. Britannia denies any plans to sell off Singer

& Friedlander, its merchant banking arm.

There are, of course, still questions overhanging Britannia. Mr Robert Maxwell holds a substantial stake. Presumably he will retain it, at least while he is involved with Mr David Stevens in other Stock Exchange operations. Mr Stevens is to join as a main board director when Montagu Investment Management is merged with Britannia.

Stores

After the initial euphoria of Dixons' bid for Woolworths, announced on Thursday, the stores sector lost some of its gloss yesterday with shares in Storehouse, Marks and Spencer and Laura Ashley among the losers. Investors seem to have decided that prices are high enough.

Though takeover activity has already pushed most prices to fairly demanding levels, there are still one or two shares which might attract the attention of investors who have missed the wonder of Woolies.

ASDA-MFI, the result of a merger between Associated Dairies and MFI, the flat pack furniture group, has underperformed ever since the deal was consummated a year ago. In the past three months it has lost 13 per cent against the FT all-share index.

The main worry has been that problems at Asda food stores would hold back the group. But following the appointment of Mr Derek Hunt, who masterminded MFI's rise to fame, as chief executive and deputy chairman of the combined group, there are growing hopes that recovery will be quick.

The choice of Mr David Donne, well known for his role at Steeley, Dalgety and Crest Nicholson, for chairman is also welcome in the City.

In the year to April 30 the company is expected to have made an annualized £170 million or so, suggesting that the shares at 148p are trading on a multiple of 14 times earnings. That may not be cheap but it leaves scope for appreciation once sentiment turns.

COMPANY NEWS

THE GRA GROUP: Results for year to October 31 (£000). Pre-tax profit 643 (377), tax 245 (11 ctd), extraordinary credit 350 (657). Earnings per share before extraordinary items 0.92p (0.91), after 1.74p (2.44). The profit was achieved although the White City was closed for the whole of the trading period, whereas it operated for most of the corresponding period.

MOUNT CHARLOTTE INVESTMENTS: The chairman, Mr S C Smith-Coa, says in his annual statement that the company's profitability in 1986 so far has exceeded budget targets. He confidently expects further progress in profits and net earnings per share this year.

TI GROUP: The chairman, Mr Unger, says in his annual report that, after the progress in 1985, this year is viewed with a great deal more confidence. Demand for company's products remains generally good.

CULLEN'S HOLDINGS: Acceptances have been received for 99.63 per cent of the 2,649,958 new ordinary shares offered at 200p. Shares not taken up have been sold at a net premium of about 74p over the subscription price.

GROFUND INTERNATIONAL: Results for year to February 26. No final, making 1.3c (1.8). Figures in \$000. Net revenue 649 (945) after transfer to capital redemption reserve nil (48). Net revenue per share 1.3197c (1.8213).

NOBLE AND LUND: Final 0.35p, making 0.7p (0.1925). Figures for 1985 in £000. Pre-tax profit 278 (59). Earnings per share 3.85p (1.02). Board is pursuing policy of expanding through acquisition. Existing business has been transferred to a new subsidiary, Noble and Lund Engineering, and Noble and Lund will be the holding company. Group has completed the acquisition of Aquadrum, a small advanced technology company manufacturing spark erosion machinery.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE BREWERIES: Company has launched its first Euro-sterling £50 million issue, led by Hill Samuel and Morgan Grenfell. The issue has a maturity of 20 years, a coupon of 9% per cent and an issue price of £100% per cent. The proceeds will be used to improve the maturity and cost structure of borrowings.

WEST'S GROUP INTERNATIONAL: The Tilbury offices have been declared unconditional.

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES: Acceptances of Coleroll's offers have been received for 15,241 shares (0.27 per cent of the issued ordinary), and 321 pref shares (0.02 per cent). Before the announcement of the offer Coleroll owned 497,000 shares (8.7 per cent). The offers and the cash alternative have been extended until 3pm on April 17.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bid fever keeps its grip

A record 46,000 bargains were struck on the London Stock Exchange yesterday with turnover valued at £765.48 million.

After a bearish start the FT 30 index recovered to close down five points at 1,420.9. The FT-SE 100 index was 7.9 off at 1,709.7.

Bid mania showed little sign of easing as the market ended an eventful week. It was another session in which takeover situations dominated, as the spotlight switched to the banking sector where Lloyds launched a bid worth £1.2 billion for Standard Chartered, whose shares rose 181p to 820p after the approach. Lloyds finished 7p down at 632p among other firm clearers.

Earlier, there had been the offer by Hillsdown, up 35p at 313p, for S & W Berisford, 18p better at 248p, new Demerger terms for Exter, 12p higher at 405p, news of merger talks at Good Relations, which gained 16p to 169p, and a bid approach for Standard Fire-

works, which improved 19p to 140p after 160p.

Elsewhere, after some profit-taking, share prices strengthened as the market closed. Among the leaders revived bid gossip lifted Bechem 20p to 388p, while Distillers jumped 35p to 710p after comment on the latest developments.

There was still plenty of activity in stores where counterbid hopes put another 15p on Woolworth at 905p. Dixons, meanwhile, shed 18p at 412p. Burton also reflected profit-taking after yesterday's good figures, closing 13p lower at 340p.

Speculative buying lifted Avon 11 1/2p to 73 1/2p, while

Vickers still reflected compensation hopes, advancing 12p to 540p. There was no holding Amstrad, which responded to fresh investment buying by climbing another 50p to 490p.

Among foods Avana, after yesterday's broker's lunch, rose 13p to 492p. Another firm spot was in brewers where Vaux remained excited by talk of a Pleasurama bid, jumping 50p to 535p.

Recent Oppenheimer profits stimulated Mercantile House, 15p higher at 342p, while Mercury Securities, on Steinberg stake speculation, put on 25p at 953p. Royal Bank of Scotland climbed 28p at 380p on speculation that it would sell its Woolworth stake.

There was profit-taking in Reckitt and Colman, 18p easier at 882p, but Tate & Lyle gained 13p at 658p, reflecting its stake in Berisford.

Reuters, after the sale of the United News stake, closed 10p down at 455p. Bowater, with results due soon, also lost 10p, closing at 328p.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Abbott M V (180p)	230	SAC Intl (100p)	139
Ashley (L) (135p)	217-4	SPP (125p)	155-1
BPP (160p)	188	Templeton (215p)	223-5
Brookmount (180p)	183	Sigmex (101p)	81
Chart FL (86p)	83	Snowdon & B (97p)	119
Chancery Secs (53p)	77	Spice (80p)	96
Com 9% A 2000	228 1/2	Tech Corp (130p)	202
Cranswick (145p)	106	Underwoods (180p)	185-2
Dialens (128p)	180-5	Walcote (120p)	219-7
Ferguson (J) (10p)	31 1/2	W York Hosp (90p)	78
Gold Grm Trot (165p)	195-7	Wickes (140p)	172
Granyta Surface (56p)	80		
Inoco (55p)	38	Cullens F/P	275 +205
JS Pathology (160p)	280	Greycoat N/P	52 +2
Jarvis Ports (105p)	136 +3	Hartwells N/P	3
Kearford (118p)	118 +5	NMW Comp F/P	2350
Lexicon (115p)	136-2	Porter chad F/P	104
Macro 4 (105p)	118 +5	Safeway UK	248 -1
Mervale M (115p)	146 +1	Wates F/P	155
Norank Sys (90p)	108 +3	Westland F/P	83
Really Useful (330p)	328-5		

Weather hits foods group

Bad weather last summer and autumn sharply reduced profits at E T Sutherland and Son, the Sheffield-based foods group, according to results announced yesterday.

Although sales of chilled foods were higher in the second half of 1985 than in 1984, they fell short of the budgeted figure in what is normally the busiest time of the year.

Sutherland reported operating profits of £840,000 in the year, down from £1.51 million in 1984, despite a rise in turnover to £23.64 million from £20.74 million.

The dividend is maintained at a total 3.33p after a final 1.87p, payable on May 30. Members of the chairman's family have waived their rights to the final dividend.

The company says trading conditions remain difficult and this year has started slowly.

Overheads in the chilled foods division continued to grow and were built up to match a turnover level that was not reached. Operating profits, therefore, were significantly lower than planned.

Since the end of the year steps taken to cut costs include

closing the special products factory and transferring production of cooked meats to the main factory.

The canned foods division is still facing competition from imports of subsidized canned meat products, mainly from Brazil and Holland. Although this is expected to be temporary, it has been decided not to trade in unprofitable lines.

Pending a return to a more acceptable level of profitability, Sutherland will be reducing capital expenditure substantially.

Beatle era collection is saved

By Teresa Poole

The Beatle City collection of memorabilia has been saved from the auction rooms of New York, and will remain in Liverpool.

Transworld Leisure, the London developer, has acquired the loss-making exhibition for £500,000 from Radio City, the Merseyside independent radio station.

The new home for more than 1,000 exhibits from the Beatle era will be Liverpool's Festival Gardens, which are being developed by Transworld at a cost of £8 million under an agreement with the Merseyside Development Corporation.

Without the Transworld deal, Liverpool would have lost the collection. Two other potential buyers were intending to move the exhibition to London and, failing an agreement, Radio City was planning to ship the collection this month to Sotheby's in New York.

Since its opening in April, 1984 at a cost of £1.4 million, Beatle City has lost money.

APPOINTMENTS

British Land: Mr Gerald Rothman is appointed a director.

Currency Brokers International: Mr Spencer Freeman-Haynes and Mr Graham Mansfield have joined the board.

Nolton: Mr Richard Opperman has become an executive director.

Tim Arnold: Mr Eric Watt steps up to director from account director, and Mr Mark Beasley, a director of Masterguide, takes up a similar appointment with Tim Arnold.

Fosroc Minsep: Mr Robert Jordan becomes group managing director in succession to Mr Tony Chubb who is appointed deputy chairman. Dr Doug Bryant and Mr Ian Hazlehurst join the board.

Mallinson-Denny Ltd: Mr Roger Barklett has been appointed finance director.

The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company: Mr David Kinloch joins the board as an executive director.

Superdrug Stores: Mr Alan G Chandler has been made a director.

Baird Eves: Mr C H Sporborg has become chairman and Mr J M Clay and Mr D G Lewis have been made directors.

The British Association of Industrial Editors: Mr Cecil Pedersen has been appointed chief executive following the retirement of secretary general Ken Bartlett.

The Howard Group: Mr Kevin Dower has been appointed managing director of Anthony Pople and Company Limited, the Lloyds broker specializing in US casualty business.

A close encounter of the real kind

On the night of March 13th 1985 the GIOTTO spacecraft reached the climax of its incredible journey. An encounter with Halley's Comet.

Over 91 million miles out in space GIOTTO is unlocking some of the secrets that have held the imagination of man for centuries. To make that rendezvous, a British Aerospace team had spent the previous three years building GIOTTO with the help of companies from 10 countries.

Since 1964 we've acted as prime contractor on 21 European spacecraft, including the Olympus class, the most powerful communications satellites yet ordered.

These spacecraft, together with guided weapons systems, civil and military aircraft, form part of a range of aerospace products unmatched by any other company in the world.

Giving British Aerospace the skills and experience to meet the demands of tomorrow.

With 76 years to wait until the return of Halley's Comet, its encounter was a milestone we could not afford to miss. Who knows who will be there to meet it next time round?

BRITISH AEROSPACE

...up where we belong

British Aerospace plc, 100 Pall Mall, London.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year gain or loss. Lists various companies and their performance over time.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Includes instructions on how to use the table.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table listing short-term investments with columns for date, price, and other details.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing medium-term investments with columns for date, price, and other details.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing long-term investments with columns for date, price, and other details.

UNDATED

Table listing undated investments with columns for price and other details.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked investments with columns for price and other details.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount rates with columns for bank name and rate.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 1. Dealings end April 11. Settlement day April 14. Settlement day, April 21.

*Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

BREWERIES

Table listing brewery companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

BUILDING AND ROADS

Table listing building and road companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table listing chemical and plastic companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table listing cinema and TV companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table listing drapery and store companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table listing finance and land companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

FOODS

Table listing food companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table listing hotel and catering companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table listing industrial companies A-D with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Table listing industrial companies E-K with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Table listing industrial companies L-R with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Table listing industrial companies S-Z with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

LEISURE

Table listing leisure companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

MINING

Table listing mining companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table listing motor and aircraft companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table listing newspaper and publisher companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

OIL

Table listing oil companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table listing overseas trader companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table listing paper, printing, and advertising companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table listing shoe and leather companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

TEXTILES

Table listing textile companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies with columns for High, Low, Price, Change, and % P/E.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000. Claims required for +39 points. Claims required for +166 points. Claimants should ring 0254-5372.

Table listing various companies and their performance over time, similar to the main Portfolio section.

BRITISH FUNDS

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BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount rates with columns for bank name and rate.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Table listing stock exchange prices for various companies.

Handwritten note: "ditto" with a checkmark.

Cheaper way to invest money

SHARES

It is difficult to see why investors with sums of less than, say, £50,000 bother with direct investment in shares — unit trusts are a more efficient and cheaper way of building a portfolio of shares.

Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers came to the same conclusion — but realised that many people still like to have a dabble in shares or want to stag a new issue.

Their solution offers the best of both worlds — the Master Portfolio Service is a unit trust with a minimum investment of £50,000 and a dealing service tacked on as an extra.

Costs are kept to a minimum with a front end charge of only 1.5 per cent compared with the normal 5 per cent charged by most unit trusts. The annual management charge is 1 per cent.

Investors get the benefit of professional management for their core holdings of shares — the blue chips and others that you are not going to want to sell. In addition you can still deal directly in shares in the normal way but brokers' time is no longer taken up with discussing your portfolio.

Around £1 million of new money a week has been coming in since launch date and the fund now stands at £16 million.

The cost of preparing capital gains tax computations necessary when buying and selling shares, not to mention a high minimum bargain charge now levied by most stockbrokers, makes the Capel Cure Myers service an attractive alternative.

Full details from Capel Cure Myers, 65, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EU, tel: 01-236 5080.

City fever as boom continues

STOCK MARKETS

Stock markets hit new highs again this week as investors indulged in a spate of bed and breakfasting keeping stockbrokers working until the small hours of the morning and severely straining the Stock Exchange computers.

"I shall be here probably until midnight," groaned Anthony Wilkin of Springsour Vickers. "We have to get the paper work done."

"The volume of bargains is hitting record levels too," confirmed Paul Killick of Quilter Goodison. "On Thursday, for example, the number of transactions was 37,900 compared with 26,900 a year ago."

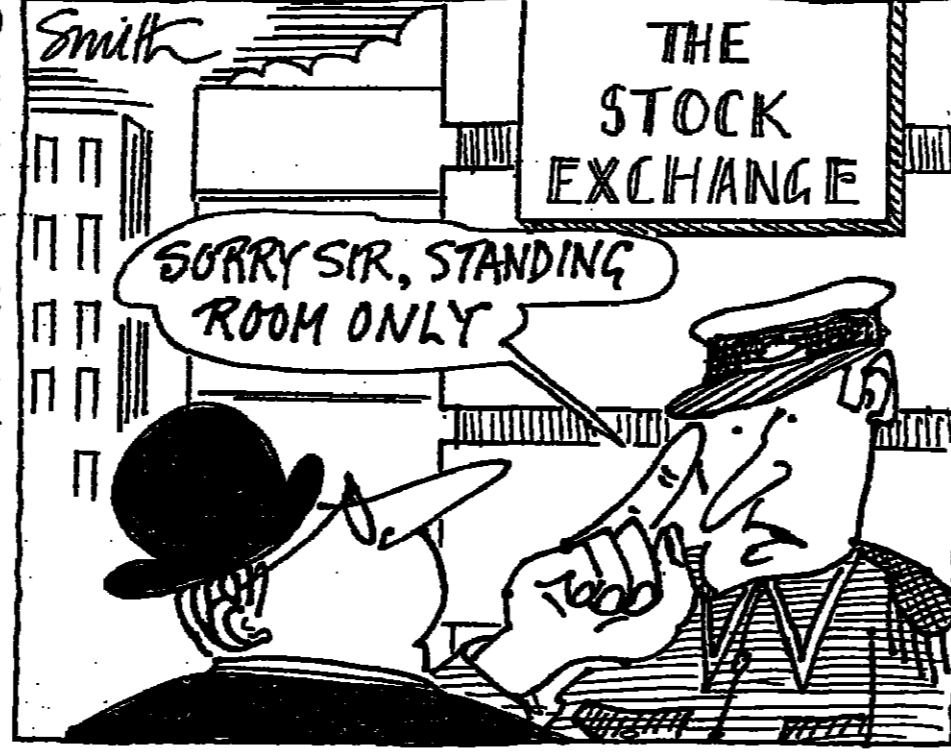
And shareholders and unit trust investors have some handsome profits to take. The FT all share index is up over 30 per cent on a year ago as is Footsie, the new Stock Exchange index, while the FT Ordinary index is up by nearly 50 per cent on the 12-month period.

If stockbrokers have been busy the accountants barely have time to answer the phone. "Everyone wants to know what their capital gains tax position is and how much profit to take. I'm going to chuck this job in and become a stockbroker," complained an overworked accountant's clerk.

For unit trust investors, the latest performance figures show the Japanese trusts dominating the top end of the three-month charts with no less than 12 of the top 20 invested in Japan and the Far East.

But if both the performance of the yen and Japanese stocks are pushing the Japanese trusts through the roof, trusts invested in neighbouring Hong Kong and Malaysia take the booby prizes at the bottom end of the charts, along with the Pacific, Australasian and commodity funds.

These funds have seen



losses of as much as 30 per cent since the beginning of the year with a £100 investment in Target Australia now worth only £70.20.

For new investors coming into the market, it is reasonable to expect the boom in share prices to continue. "We are quite relaxed about the situation," says Fred Carr of stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers. "The turning point in the economic cycle seems to be

pushed further and further into the future."

He believes that the fall in the price of oil has fundamentally changed the entire world economy and that markets worldwide are being rerated.

But he is predicting that the price of oil will rebound to about \$18 a barrel by the end of the year which does indicate that a modicum of caution would not come amiss. "I think like the Duke of Wel-

lington at the ball before the battle of Waterloo — you stay at the party but you keep your boots near the door."

Investment adviser Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Brokers is quite happy with the situation. "We are remaining fully invested with one third in each of the US and the UK with 20 per cent in Japan. We have taken no liquidity," he says.

He confirms that since early January when it became obvious that the oil price was set to fall, his clients have been fully invested and have remained so.

But are share prices fully discounting the effects of the fall in oil prices? "No — because I don't think anyone knows yet at what price oil will settle," he says. "It is perfectly possible that it will drift even lower."

He is recommending TR Smaller Companies in the UK, both the M & G American funds and Target American in the US as well as Baring

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Current value of £100 invested over three months to April 1, 1986

Fund	£
County Bank Japan Growth	147.80
Lagard & General	147.30
Britannia Japan Performance	147.10
Target Japan	146.50
OS Japan	141.20
Oppenheimer Japan Growth	141.00
Wardley Japan	140.60
FS Balanced Growth	139.70
Wardley International Growth	138.80
Sartorial UK General	138.80

Return calculated on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested
Source: Planned Savings

Why you should meet outside the office

ALLOWANCES

As a result of a recent court ruling it now pays partnerships and small businesses to hold weekend or overnight conferences — rather than working lunches.

The case of Watkins v Ashford Sparkes and Harward concerned a firm of solicitors. The partners were self-employed and therefore as Schedule D taxpayers one of the facts they had to prove to the court was that the expenses they claimed as deductions were "wholly and exclusively laid out or expended for the purpose of the trade, profession or vocation."

The solicitors sought to offset the cost of various lunch meetings at which the partners discussed business and their evening business meetings followed by dinner. The court held that the food and drink was not a deductible expense because it did not satisfy the "wholly and exclusively" criteria — it took the place of meals which would have been consumed in any event.

But the partners also went on an annual weekend conference — with their wives and children. They stayed in a hotel because the purpose of the meeting was to discuss particularly important issues affecting the business and "continuity of these discussions was of considerable importance and value."

The court accepted that the cost of overnight accommodation for the partners was "wholly and exclusively" incurred for business purposes and was therefore deductible.

They went a step further and confirmed that if the hotel bill is reasonable, the amount will usually be allowed in full without being broken down into accommodation on the one hand and food and drink on the other.

Patrick Way, a tax partner at Nabarro Nathanson, said: "What the Revenue is looking to see is the main purpose of the taxpayer when incurring the expense."

"In the case of food and drink it is very hard to say that the main reason for incurring the expense is a business one; obviously the individual would have eaten anyway. However, if the taxpayer goes away to a conference, the cost of the hotel accommodation is over and above that which he would have ordinarily incurred."

"In these circumstances, where food and drink is consumed as well, provided that the bill is reasonable, the Revenue does allow all the costs. The motto therefore may well be for Schedule E taxpayers to have their important firm business meetings away from the office."

Furthermore, if you are self-employed you should be able to deduct the cost of travelling to the conference, provided you travel to the meeting from your place of work and not from home.

"Everyone is conferencing," said Gill Smillie, a partner in the Dorking-based conference organizers Conference Venues Countrywide. "There has been an unprecedented boom in conference business."

The reason for the increased popularity of overnight conferences could well be as a result of a court case. Gill Smillie said firms are increasingly requesting hotels with leisure facilities for their conferences.

Lord Denning said in the Watkins case: "If the purpose is exclusively business and any personal benefit or enjoyment is incidental, then the conference expenditure can be deducted."

At the top end of the market, luxury country house hotels such as Ettington Park, near Stratford, charge £90 a delegate a day. This includes VAT, all meals, conference room hire and the use of leisure facilities such as indoor swimming pool.

Another recent trend Gill Smillie has noticed is that fewer delegates are accompanied by their wives.

Sue Fieldman

Marriage allowance hitch

A little-noticed consequence of the proposed switch to transferable income tax allowances, as proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Green Paper on personal tax reform, published on Budget day, is the adverse effect this could have on single parents.

At present, single parents with dependent children receive the single allowance plus an additional personal allowance, of £1,320 in 1986/87. This increases the tax allowances available for single parents to the equivalent of the married man's allowance.

The Green Paper, like its 1980 predecessor, proposes getting rid of the additional

personal allowance and replacing it with extra social security benefits. This approach, it is said, would have the advantage of removing support for single parents from the tax system and concentrating it on the benefits system; it would simplify the tax system; give help to those single parents who do not pay tax, and reduce the tax penalty on marriage.

The latter point refers to cases of men and women with children from previous marriages who decide to live together. Under the present system, they each get the equivalent of the married man's allowance, unless they marry.

There are difficulties with the proposed system of transferable allowances as it would affect single parents.

The first is that many working single parents are proud to be independent of the social security system. The new system would force them into claiming benefits.

Second, the new system would allow a man to leave his wife and marry again, at which point he would have two single allowances to set against income. His first wife, meanwhile, has one allowance to set against her income, irrespective of the number of children.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

FRAMLINGTON

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Our special style is to concentrate on smaller companies and try to identify those with really good growth prospects before the rest of the market recognises their promise, aiming for exceptional capital growth performance.

The results of this have been good, especially over the long term.

OUR RECORD
The two previous Framlington funds which have most closely followed this approach have been Capital Trust, investing in UK, shares; and American and General Fund, investing in the U.S.A. Both have done well.

Over the ten years to 1st March Framlington Capital Trust was the very best performing of all the 273 unit trusts monitored by Money Management over the period. It turned an original investment of £1,000 into £11,415.

And over seven years, our American & General Fund (started 1978) was one of the two best performing unit trusts out of the 27 investing in North American shares. It turned £1,000 into £4,544.

OUR EUROPEAN LINK
The manager of the fund is Philippe Héroult, who has been seconded from Crédit Commercial de France. He is our link into CCF's research, while working in London with the other Framlington fund managers.

The fund will have a bias towards smaller companies: it is, for example, authorised to invest in the French *Second Marché*.

In geographical terms the current emphasis of investment is on France (37 per cent), Italy

(11 per cent), Switzerland (13 per cent) and Germany (11 per cent), with smaller holdings in Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Holland and Norway. There is currently a substantial flow of new money into the fund. As this is invested, the proportions will change. In particular, the proportion invested in Germany is likely to be increased. The fund has powers to invest in Britain but will not do so for the present.

LUMP SUM INVESTMENT
You can make a lump sum investment simply by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more.

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN
Starting a monthly savings plan is equally easy. The minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

Investors should regard all unit trust investment as long term. They are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

On 1 April the price of both income and accumulation units was 53.8p, compared with 50.0p when the fund was launched on February 14. The estimated gross yield was 0.95 per cent.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Applications will be acknowledged; certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 42 days.

The minimum initial investment is £500. Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields will be published daily in leading newspapers. When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to holders of income units annually on 15 July. The first distribution will be on 15 July, 1987.

The annual charge is 1% (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price, is 5%.

Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries at the rate of 1% (+VAT). Commission is not paid on savings plans.

The trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. It ranks as a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181. Telex 8812599. Registered in England No 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

LUMP SUM
I wish to invest £ [] in Framlington European Fund (minimum £500)

I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited, 1 am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here

Surname (Mr./Mrs./Miss/Title) _____
Full first name(s) _____
Address _____
Signature _____ Date _____
(Joint applicants should all sign and if necessary give details separately)

MONTHLY SAVINGS
I wish to start a Monthly Savings Plan for £ [] in Framlington European Fund (minimum £20)

I enclose my cheque for £ [] for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your monthly payment). I am over 18.

FRAMLINGTON EUROPEAN FUND

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Citibank Savings	11 3/8%
Consolidated Crds.	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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Number One Charlotte Square

Objective The only UK investment trust which has an objective of investing in selected companies in the Asian Pacific region, excluding Japan and Australia, for capital growth.

Extracts from Chairman's Statement
"During the first year of the company's life stock markets throughout the region have been declining in Sterling terms thus providing an opportunity to invest at reasonable values. Over the longer term, with a solid portfolio of quality investments, the future looks promising."

Performance over year
Stock markets (weighted, in Sterling) -22%
Net Asset Value -8.5%
Dividend per share (net) 0.70p

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Please send me a copy of the first Annual Report of Pacific Assets Trust.

Name _____ Address _____

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The United Biscuits offer. What will be in it for the Imperial shareholder?



When you examine it closely, the United Biscuits argument soon starts to crumble.

They have no experience of tobacco and brewing.

No record of acquiring or managing diversified businesses.

And little chance of creating "global brands" (Even together, "United Imperial" would be dwarfed by the international food giants.)

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Our shareholders have seen their dividends grow by 28.7% p.a. over the last 5 years.

Our earnings per share have grown by 33.9% p.a. over the last 5 years. And our record of growth in profits has been unbroken for 22 years.

United Biscuits' so-called commercial logic? Or Hanson Trust's actual financial logic?

We recommend you accept the Hanson Trust bid before the next closing date on April 11.



H A N S O N T R U S T

دستورالعمل

FAMILY MONEY/2

Small fortune at end of tunnel

SAVINGS

What a difference 10 years can make. This was when a bank manager with a wife and two children to support could find he had little change from a salary of just over £8,000 a year. It was 1976 and the Labour Chancellor, Denis Healey, was expected to tax cheap bank mortgages as a fringe benefit.

Bank managers up and down the country were getting ready to trade in their desirable detached residences for something more modest.

It did not happen, but it was about this time that a very typical bank manager working for one of the high street banks and living in the home counties started keeping detailed records of his family's budget.

In 1976 he earned £8,041 a year, with taxable benefits of £520 a year for his bank car and private medical insurance. He took home £442 a month. He lived in a five-bedroom detached house and his low 2.5 per cent bank mortgage cost him only £106 a month. Even so, at the end of the month he had just £18 to buy the family's clothes, shoes and presents, and nothing left for saving.

Today his salary has risen to £24,240 a year with taxable fringe benefits of £480 for his car and £240 for his private medical insurance. His take-home pay is £1,399 a month.

He earns another £125 a month from shares, building-society accounts and his annual bonus. He lives in the same house and his mortgage repayments of £106 a month have paled into insignificance. Now he has a surplus of £532 at the end of the month.

He said: "Ten years ago we were scrimping and saving. Now we hardly know what to do with our money. We could buy a larger house. But with the children grown up and working and soon to move away, we ought to be thinking of buying something smaller."

"Nor do we spend much more on food. Ten years ago our monthly food bills came to £108. They more than doubled over the next five years and by 1981 we were spending £232 a month. Now our supermarket bills come to £256, but the children chip in



£108 a month."

"Our major expense and luxury is holidays. Money used to be so tight that I put an amount every month into a special holiday fund. If I hadn't, we would never have taken a holiday. In 1976 I used to put aside £30 a month - £360 a year. Now that I feel so much better off I don't budget for holidays any more.

"Even so, last year we spent nearly five times as much on holidays as we did 10 years ago.

"I spent a week bird-watching in Spain, which cost £500. My wife and I spent a week in Scotland - that cost £400. Then my wife went visiting friends in the United States for a couple of weeks. I gave her £500 towards the trip. And she went for a week to Norway with her choir, which cost £300.

"Now I'm off again - this time for a week bird-watching in Israel. It is my most expensive trip - it's going to knock me back more than £500.

"Bird-watching is my passion. I used to be what the bird-watching fraternity call a 'twit' - someone who rushes off to the far corners of the country at the first sighting of a lesser spotted something. Twit'ers spend a fortune on petrol driving around the country.

THE BANK MANAGER'S BUDGET

	1976	1981	1985
	£	£	£
Mortgage	106	106	106
Food	108	232	256
Holiday fund	30	80	-
TV rental	8	8	38
Life insurance	2	2	2
Pocket money	43	40	87
Fares	17	19	45
Rates	33	55	79
Telephone	19	10	38
Gas	22	31	69
Electricity	6	8	18
Water rates	3	3	12
School lunches	5	-	-
TV licence, housing insurance and servicing	6	20	26
Newspapers	4	8	12
Petrol	16	29	28
Clothes, repairs	18	215	48
Surplus	-	-	523
Net salary	442	884	1399
Gross salary	8041	15474	24240

"As our petrol bill has gone down in real terms, so our phone bills have gone up. Ten years ago our quarterly bills came to about £30. Now they come to more than £100. Some of that is the cost of renting another little luxury: my cordless telephone.

"When we didn't have much money we didn't drink. Now we have the money we are modest drinkers, mainly gin and sherry. But when I sat down and worked out this budget I was horrified to find that we were spending £60 a month on drink. That would have been out of the question 10 years ago.

"I also keep a detailed record of all bills over £100. Last year there were not many big items. We bought a new shower unit for £185 and there was a bill for £120 for repairing and servicing my son's car."

There are not many of us who have the advantage of a 2.5 per cent mortgage rate. And it is not much consolation to know that 10 years ago our bank manager was close to knocking on his bank manager's door.

But his carefully kept records do show how much the seemingly endless financial squeeze of bringing up children can suddenly ease.

Anthea Masey

Running for money has proved increasingly popular as a means of raising funds for a variety of good causes. There will be a number of sponsored runners in the 26 mile London marathon on April 20.

A run for their money

women's movement dating back to 1870. They hope to raise £5,000 with 2500 over-heads for printing and mailing.

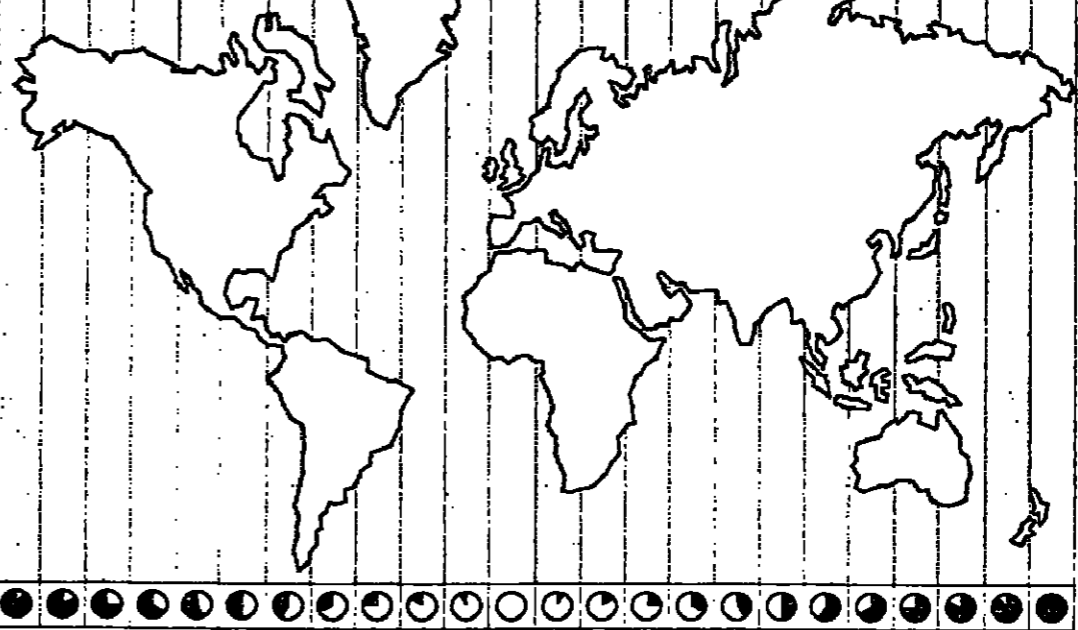
Their runners include peace campaigner Madge Sharples from Winchester, aged 69, who has run 31 marathons since her first in 1981. She is

the issue of votes for women publicly.

For complete lists of runners and sponsorship forms please contact the organizer Dr Angela Richardson (telephone 01-993 2361) or write to her c/o Fawcett Library, City of London Polytechnic, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT (01-283 1030 x570).

Jennie Hawthorne

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*Offer to bid, net income reinvested, 1/1/81 to 1/1/86. Source: Money Management Magazine

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The Fund Managers

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GUINNESS PLC
Guinness is good for Distillers.

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دستورالعمل

FAMILY MONEY 1/3

Men take up the fight in row over equality

PENSIONS

The normally sleep-inducing subject of pensions simply refuses to go away. Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the personal finance sections of the newspapers, pensions have resurfaced with a vengeance. This time the issue is equality.

It was sparked off several weeks ago by a European Court of Justice ruling that women should be allowed to retire at the same age as men instead of, as normally happens in the UK, leaving work at 60 while men are allowed to toil on until 65. This prompted the Government this week to publish a consultative document called *Sex Discrimination and Retirement* which proposes to incorporate the European ruling into the Sex Discrimination Bill now before Parliament.

The idea was quickly attacked by a whole range of interests from trade unions to government bodies. But one of the most trenchant criticisms came from the Equal Opportunities Commission. Somewhat uncharacteristically, the commission damned the document as being unfair to men and it pointed out that if implemented it would probably turn out to be illegal anyway.

Some consider the ruling illegal

"We have already had a lot of telephone calls from men complaining that it would be unfair on them if women were allowed to work until 65," said Kath Farrell of the commission.

The reason is because 90 per cent of Britain's company pension schemes work on the basis that women retire and take their pension at 60 and men at 65. If a woman was allowed, under the new law, to carry on working until 65 she could still take her pension at 60 while her male counterparts would still have to wait an extra five years for theirs.

This situation arises because the European Court ruling and the Government's document say nothing about pensions. They are exclusively concerned with equality of employment contracts. Nor do they say anything about giving men the option of retiring at 60 instead of 65.

The unfairness to men created by the effect of equal retirement ages on pensions is also probably illegal, said Kath Farrell. The commission supported a case not long ago of two female Lloyds Bank employees who complained that the bank made smaller pension contributions for them than for their male counterparts. The case went to the European Court which decided that pension contributions counted as part of an employee's pay.

By making different pension contributions for women Lloyds was therefore contra-

vening article 119 of the Treaty of Rome requiring equality of pay between the sexes.

The implication of this judgment is that if women are entitled to take their pension and still continue to work, employers can be accused of giving them a higher remuneration than men.

"The Government never consulted us on this issue," said Kath Farrell. "It is ill-advised of the Government to allow employers to have a different set of rules for the sexes in pension schemes."

This adverse judgment was echoed by Colin Lever, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents more than 90 per cent of occupational schemes. "The Government's whole proposal is half-baked," he said. "There is a wide diversity in the way pension schemes operate but most of them would probably want to change their rules to give women the option of contributing to their pension up to age 65."

Cive Hopkins, vice-chairman of the association, pointed out that lengthening the retirement age would at least be simple and cheap for pension funds to adapt to — certainly not as difficult as coping with a shortening of everyone's retirement age. A woman would theoretically have four options to choose from.

Women could have four options

She could simply retire at 60 and take her pension as normal. Or she could carry on working until 65, deferring her pension at 60 for five years. But there would be little point in doing this because it would do nothing to enhance her final pension rights despite the extra five years of work. More likely she would choose to continue contributing to her pension for the five extra years to increase the value of the final payout.

"Many women might welcome the chance to do this since their pension contributions have often been disrupted earlier in life when they



Smuck

leave employment to bring up a family," said Mr Hopkins.

The fourth choice would be to continue working until 65 but take all or some of her pension at 60. "Many might choose to take their lump sum commutation at 60. It could come in rather useful at that stage," said Mr Hopkins. "But few women are likely to start drawing their regular pension

and continue working. There would be five years of a salary and a pension but thereafter only a pension. Most women would probably choose to carry on contributing to their pension to make it larger when they eventually retire — and I doubt they can do that if they are already drawing their pension."

Richard Thomson

MOTURING

Road users are increasingly at risk as more motorists break the law and fail to take out proper motor insurance. With limited exceptions, anyone who uses a motor vehicle on a road in the UK has to have insurance to cover its use.

The compulsory insurance is broadly to cover personal injury to third parties, although this bare minimum is not readily available from insurance companies. Most people are insured either "third party" — which would cover third-party property damage as well as personal injury — or comprehensively.

However, an increasing number of people are not bothering to insure, though the penalties can on conviction be disqualification and a fine up to £1,000.

In 1984 in England and Wales there were 219,253 convictions for using a motor vehicle without insurance and a further 22,300 written cautions. This must be the tip of the iceberg only.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of motorists are uninsured, so if you are involved in a road traffic accident the chances of the other driver being uninsured are not as remote as you might think.

If an insured driver has the misfortune to be involved in an accident caused by the negligence of a motorist who is not insured, how can that innocent party recover his losses?

After a crash, the greater shock

In a "damage only" accident the insured motorist can, if he has comprehensive insurance, claim on his own policy, although even then there may well be uninsured losses such as the excess on the policy and loss of no claims bonus. But what if the insured motorist is one of those 35 per cent of motorists who have only third party insurance?

The personal liability of the driver at fault is not affected by his lack of insurance and he can be sued for all losses.

Yet often the uninsured motorist is impetuous — that's probably why he is uninsured in the first place — and the innocent party may be just wasting money in trying to recover his losses by taking fruitless court proceedings. He may well end up footing the bills himself.

If the innocent motorist has the greater misfortune to be injured in an accident caused by the negligent driving of an uninsured driver, then at least so far as those personal injuries are concerned he can be assured of receiving appropriate compensation.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau was set up in 1946 by the insurance companies, with the agreement of the Government, as an extra-statutory body, specifically to compensate innocent victims of acci-

That by itself is not going to have a significant effect on insurance premiums because most insurance policies already cover this.

But this change in definition to embrace third-party damage will have a substantial effect on the functions of the Motor Insurers' Bureau. It will be paying damages for personal injuries as before but will also be liable to pay the cost of repairs to third-party property when the driver at fault is uninsured, regardless of whether anyone was injured.

Anomalously, however, it is not proposed to extend this to cover cases of damage to property where there is a hit-and-run driver, on the rather spurious argument that it would open the way to fraud by those who damaged their own property and then allege that an unidentified driver was responsible.

There are also decisions to be made on other points such as whether there will be an excess on property damage claims — it seems almost certain there will be one. Nonetheless, it seems likely they will be brought into effect well before the deadline of December 31, 1988. When they are in force, the Motor Insurers' Bureau will be paying out perhaps very substantial additional sums.

The bureau's funding arrangements will not be changing and thus the effect on the motorist who does insure will be that there will inevitably be a sharp increase in the cost

Ian Brewer

NEW TRUST LAUNCH

First public offer of units

Our fresh approach to Europe can get your money growing

In the last few years, the investment climate in Europe has changed dramatically.

Private investment is now being actively encouraged, and a large number of companies are now issuing shares as a way of raising capital.

And Europe is enjoying sustained economic growth.

This combination of increasing economic freedom and all-round growth has made today's Europe a highly attractive investment proposition.

And the promise of more certain political stability for most of the Continent makes this a good time to be getting into Europe.

Which is why we are launching the new TSB European Unit Trust now.

TSB's view of Europe

Not for us the fashionable choice of the moment, or the faddish flavour of the month.

Because Europe is not one market, but many. This is why we aim to seek out those Continental companies which, because of their special positions within the European economic structure, look set to maintain improving growth.

Europe's best prospects

By far the best prospects for profit lie in those European countries with sound industrial and commercial bases. And the promise of yet more growth to come.

Germany, Switzerland, France, Holland, Italy, Sweden and the UK will be among the countries we'll be working in to secure our prime objective: sustained and solid growth from a broad spread of carefully selected shares.

Our experience in Europe

Though TSB European Unit Trust is a new venture, we are not newcomers to Europe.

We have already achieved considerable success on the Continent with over £68 million invested there through TSB Investment Management Limited, the Investment Managers to this Trust.

And we are well-placed to build on this profitable experience.

Our Investment Managers have an extensive network of contacts across all the major markets of Europe.

They have immediate access to the research and intelligence of some of the leading banks in Germany, France and Switzerland. And make regular visits to selected companies to assess their investment potential.

All of which means that a holding in the new TSB European Unit Trust could see you moving into profit through 1986, and the years ahead.

Profits over the longer term

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard your investment as being a medium to long term one.

Which in this case, and in this trust, is a good thing. Because we believe our approach to Europe is one that will pay off over the longer term.

Invest now at the initial price

To make your investment in the new TSB European Unit Trust, simply complete the buying order below. (You'll see we're now offering you the opportunity to buy units with your Trustcard.)

Act before April 15th 1986 and you'll be able to buy units at the fixed initial offer price of 50p. After that, units will be offered at the price ruling on the day we receive your order.

You owe it to yourself to act today.

TSB EUROPEAN UNIT TRUST BUYING ORDER

FIXED INITIAL OFFER PRICE OF 50p UNTIL APRIL 15th 1986

To: Ann Roberts, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 63432/3/4

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £250)

in the TSB EUROPEAN UNIT TRUST at the initial offer price of 50p per unit, provided I/we invest on or before April 15th 1986, thereafter at the offer price ruling on receipt of this Buying Order.

I/We enclose a cheque payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited, or - Please debit my TRUSTCARD account by £

My card no. is _____ As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to all investors. If you would prefer Income Units, with income distributed twice a year, please tick here.

(BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms. (For name)

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____

Date _____

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach their names and addresses on a separate piece of paper. This offer is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. 5 of 1

TARGET AMERICAN EAGLE FUND

INVEST FOR GROWTH IN 1986

The prospect for investors in the United States stockmarket this year looks particularly favourable. Factors which lead us to this view include:

- ★ The fall in the value of the Dollar — which is helping to restore the competitiveness of US industry.
- ★ The fall in world oil prices — which should have a beneficial impact on economic growth and help preserve low levels of inflation.
- ★ An expectation of a significant rise in corporate earnings — evidence of which has already begun to emerge since the last quarter of 1985.

While there are interesting opportunities in the small company and technology sectors, we consider those investing in the American economy in 1986 should primarily concentrate on larger, blue chip companies. The portfolio of Target American Eagle Fund reflects the view that stocks with the greatest potential for growth lie in typically special areas, such as chemicals and engineering. It is intended that the portfolio of the Fund will focus on around 30 such stocks to achieve concentrated performance.

Free Cassette
The manager of the Target American Eagle Fund has recently returned from the US where he has undertaken an in-depth study of the potential investment opportunities. We have presented his findings in the form of a Cassette.
To receive your free copy, simply complete and return the coupon below if you have a professional adviser and wish to invest in the Target American Eagle Fund, we suggest you contact him without delay. Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Please send me a copy of the Target American Eagle Fund Cassette.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Professional Adviser: _____

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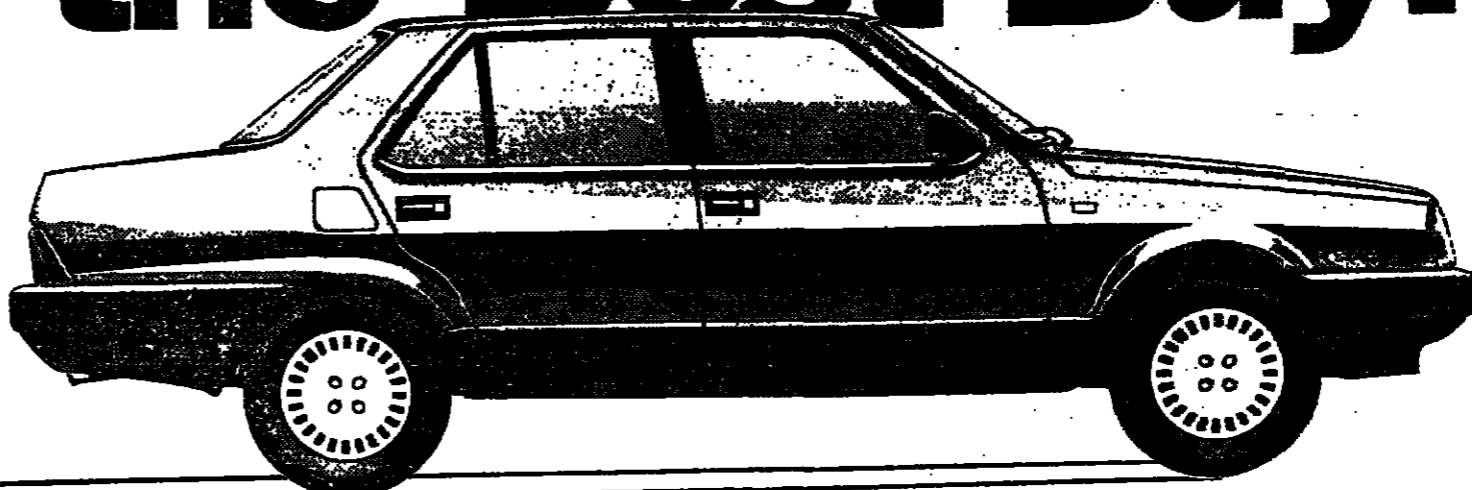
Manager: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association). Investment Managers: TSB Investment Management Limited. Trustees: General Accident Executor and Trustee Company Limited.
Charge: There is a 5% initial charge thereafter 1% per annum (plus VAT of the Fund's value, deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1.6% per annum; the Managers will give unitholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. These charges are included in the offer price of units.
Selling units: Units can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions.

TSB Unit Trusts Limited is one of the most successful companies in its field. It is also one of the largest. Turning in a consistently good performance, it looks after around £1,000 million on behalf of people like you. And it's part of the group that likes to say 'yes'.

Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate. Commissions: Payable to qualified agents at rates which are available on request. Price/Yield: Until April 15th 1986, the initial offer price for Accumulation/Income Units will be 50p and the estimated gross yield 1.60%. Thereafter, units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the date of receipt of applications. Prices and yield are quoted daily in the national press. Income: First distribution April 2nd 1987; thereafter income will be payable on April 2nd and October 2nd each year. Registered Office: Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales number 1629925.



'Which Car?' reviewed 90 family cars. Only 1 was awarded the 'Best Buy'



MITSUBISHI GALANT 1.6 GL—£6899
 NISSAN SUNNY 1300 GS—£5726
 VAUXHALL NOVA 1300 GL—£5939
 HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 GSL—£6199
 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GL—£7174
 ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.8—£7950

TOYOTA CARINA 1600—£6959
 DAIHATSU CHARMANT 1.6 LE—£5899
 MAZDA 1600 GL—£6551
 SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLS—£6710

SAAB 900

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 LD—£7081

FIAT REGATA 100 SUPER—£7540

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1.6 HL—£7590

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA CD—£6861

FIAT REGATA 70 COMFORT—£5925

RENAULT 9 BROADWAY 1.6 D—£6130

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1600—£6299

MITSUBISHI LANCER

RENAULT 9

NISSAN

VOLKSWAGEN

TOYOTA

FIAT

VOLKSWAGEN

VAUXHALL

NISSAN

MAZDA 323 1500

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1300—£5361

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568

HYUNDAI STELLAR 1.6 SL—£5599

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT CL—£7760

FORD ORION 1600 LD—£6792

FIAT REGATA 85 COMFORT—£6095

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1600 L—£6799

MAZDA 1600—£67125

FIAT REGATA 85S AUTO—£6996

RENAULT 18 DEAUVILLE GTD—£6955

DAIHATSU CHARMANT 1.3—£5549

MITSUBISHI LANCER 1800—£6899

SUBARU 1800 GT

FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6539

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3 L—£6409

ROVER 216 SE—£7187

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 2.0 HL—£7899

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ROVER 216 SE—£7187

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3 L—£6409

AUSTIN ROVER 216 SE—£7187

AUSTIN MONTEGO 2.0 HL—£7899

FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6539

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6734

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RENAULT 9 BROADWAY 1.4—£5520

TOYOTA COROLLA 1300 GL—£5700

FORD ORION 1600 GL—£6719

NISSAN BLUEBIRD 1.8 DX—£6399

SEAT MALAGA 1500 GL—£5770

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6130

AUSTIN MONTEGO 1600—£6299

RENAULT DEAUVILLE

FIAT REGATA

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6549

FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6095

MITSUBISHI LANCER 1800—£6899

ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350

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LANCIA PRISMA 1600—£6990

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3 L—£6409

AUSTIN ROVER 216 SE—£7187

AUSTIN MONTEGO 2.0 HL—£7899

FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6539

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6734

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VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6734

As you can see, they were all in there pitching to become Which Car?'s 'Best Buy' - the Orion, Cavalier, Montego - family cars from Alfa to Volkswagen.

But it took the Fiat Regata to show them all the way home with a combination of virtues that put the result beyond doubt.

To use Which Car?'s own words:

"Performance is one of the Regata's strong suits...The twin cam 100 Super can manage a class-leading 109 mph and the 0-60 mph dash in under 10 secs."

"...ride comfort is good...and handling safe and predictable."

"The Regata's interior is spacious...equipment levels are high too. In total, the Regata is quiet and refined."

"A truly massive boot makes the point that the Regata is a very competent load carrier as well."

"Fiat have gone to a lot of trouble to make the Regata one of the most refined economy machines in its class...All versions return very good fuel economy, however hard they are driven."

And to sum up:

"Buy a Regata and you get a lot of car for your money. All models are well equipped when compared with rivals and although the Regata never sets out to be

a massive car it uses its interior space to great effect. In addition, all models are pleasant to drive, handle predictably and shouldn't cost a fortune to run."

Neither will they cost a fortune to buy. Your Fiat dealer can show you all five 1.3 and 1.6 litre Regata saloons and two estates at prices that start at £5,695!

But talk to him now - he may be able to tempt you even more with a very special offer.

And in any event, choose a Regata and you'll drive away with Which Car?'s assurance that you couldn't have made a better decision.

Regata From £5,695[†]

FIAT

SETTING NEW STANDARDS

REGATA RANGE FROM £5,695-£8,460. †PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, BUT EXCLUDES NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND ROAD TAX. OFFICIAL DOE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE REGATA 100S (ILLUSTRATED): 47.9MPG (5.9L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 56MPH, 35.8MPG (7.9L/100KM) AT A CONSTANT 75MPH, 27.2MPG (10.4L/100KM), URBAN CYCLE. *WHERE LEGAL SPEED LIMITS PERMIT. ALL DATA FROM WHICH CAR? FEB 86.

Handwritten note: "هذا هو الجواب"

TO BUILDING SOCIETY AND UNIT TRUST INVESTORS



The Arbutnot International Fund pulls many investment strings world-wide to achieve capital growth, rising income and long-term success. Just one of 11 successful unit trusts.

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Did YOU know that 16 of the top 20 best performing shares of 1985 were all 'PENNY' Shares!

... and that every single one, bar one, had been recommended in the Penny Share Guide

Of course, past achievement is no guarantee for future success, but we have said it before on many occasions, that there is a 'definite logic' to 'penny' shares...

To: The Penny Share Guide Ltd, 3 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AU. Yes, please send me FREE details on 'Penny' Shares and the 'Penny Share Guide'...

Final call for BT investors

British Telecom shareholders have to make the final payment for their shares by Wednesday next week, April 9. If they do not they will forfeit the shares...

This is the final call for cash - shareholders have already paid 90p a share and there is 40p still to find. But with BT shares standing at 278p even those who may not have the money readily available should have no trouble in persuading the bank manager to grant an overdraft against the security of the shares.

If you do not pay you will forfeit the shares and receive just the 90p you have paid so far. At the last cash call by 100 shareholders either did not notice or couldn't afford to pay, out of a total of 1.7 million shareholders. This time round the numbers should be far lower since all those left have had experience of what to do and when.

But if you are in doubt, check with British Telecom on their special Linkline. The numbers are (0345) 010505 or (0345) 010707.

Royal security

At least one of the leading insurance companies is giving genuine discounts for security measures. Royal Insurance, which covers more than two million homes in Britain, is offering a cascade of discounts for measures to keep out the burglars as well as useful discounts for taking a voluntary excess.

Households belonging to a neighbourhood watch scheme will get a further 5 per cent discount - making a possible discount of 20 per cent for security measures. On top of that, automatic excesses have been swept away in favour of giving householders a choice - £25 excess for a 5 per cent discount, £50 for 7.5 per cent, and £100 for a 15 per cent; and Royal



is willing to consider giving higher discounts for even larger excesses. But even the standard package means a possible saving of 35 per cent on the standard price. But how competitive is the standard rate in the first place? Royal's premiums, as you might expect, are not in the bargain basement category. But they undercut the only existing policy from a major insurer to give discounts for security measures.

Sun Alliance's Firemark policy has an automatic £100 excess and offers a 10 per cent discount for good security. But while new-for-old cover for £20,000 of contents costs between £70 and £240 with the Royal depending on where you live, a Firemark policy costs between £110 and £280.

The biggest bill

How much is your building society spending on management? According to figures put together by the Supton Building Society, the Guardian Building Society is the most efficient with management expenses of just 39p for each £100 of assets compared with £1.29 at the Alliance & Leicester. Of the larger societies Cheltenham & Gloucester scores well, with management expenses of just 65p per £100 of assets and the Woolwich is well up among the leaders with a management expense ratio of £1.01. Naturally, the Supton does well with an expense ratio of 92p per £100 of assets. Figures relate to the top 20 building societies - plus the Supton.

Awash with loans

Home loans as a loss-leader seem to be a great success for the banks in rounding up new customers. Lloyds Bank, for example, has received applications for nearly £50 million in home loans, has agreed 10,000 personal loans amounting to nearly £15 million and opened more than 25,000 accounts at the 183

branches which open on Saturday.

Time savers

Anyone who has ever had a house for sale will confirm that the real bugbear is the time-waster - those who simply come to look and have no intention of buying and others who want to buy but haven't yet got the money fixed up. Two new services have been launched - both with the same basic idea that you have a guaranteed mortgage facility so that when you go to buy a house, the estate agent and the vendor know you are serious.

John Charcol's Guaranteed Mortgage Card looks like the standard credit card but carries the name of the holder plus the maximum mortgage advance for which he or she is eligible. This scheme is particularly attractive for the purchaser as the mortgage is not selected until a property has been found, so the buyer is able to take full advantage of the current mortgage offers available, of which there are many. The right decision could save £48 a month on a £30,000 mortgage - and no legal fees.

The mortgage point is a similar scheme, offering a Mortgage Guarantee Card and advice on the best type of home loan. Stuart Codling and Bob Sanderson who are launching The Mortgage Point aim to be open seven days a week and until 9pm during the week. They will also be able to offer free legal fees. Full details of both services from John Charcol Ltd., Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE. Tel: 01-589 7080. The Mortgage Point, The Granary, 50 Barton Road, Worsley, Manchester 28, tel. 061-794 8421.

Pensions advice

The freedom to opt out of a company pension scheme and make your own provision for

retirement, contained in the Government's social-security proposals, will mean that everyone will have to make a judgment about how well they think their pension fund will perform. Since most people have difficulty understanding what they will get from their pension fund anyway, it seems highly unlikely that overnight pension fund members will be capable of making this important decision.

Many in the industry fear that employees will fall victim to fast-talking pension sales representatives who will use unrealistic projections to sell personal pension plans to individuals.

Euro success

Europe remains the unit trust investors' firm favourite - at least, for those who have bought Clerical Medical units. Thirty-four per cent of all investors who responded to the launch of Clerical Medical's four new unit trusts opted for Europe, 22.2 per cent for Japan, 21.9 per cent for the gift fund and 21.3 per cent put their money into the American trust. More than £5 million was invested during the initial-offer period of three weeks.

Home cheer

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is offering home loans of more than £30,000 at the highly attractive rate of only 11.75 per cent - a full 0.25 per cent below most of the competition. The new rate applies to endowment and pension-linked loans taken out after April 6, 1986. The tiny Tipton & Coseley Building Society is also offering loans at 11.75 per cent from May 1, and there is no premium for having an endowment loan.

Details from Cheltenham & Gloucester branches or from Tipton & Coseley Building Society, 57-60 High Street, Tipton, West Midlands (021 557 2551).

Debt alert

If you are feeling bad about your overdraft then you might take some comfort in the news that consumers generally owe a staggering £175,000 million to banks, building societies, credit card companies and finance houses. "Multiple debt on such a large scale has to be managed responsibly," said Ian Miller, chairman of the Finance Houses Association.

Consumers' total indebtedness would rise Mr Miller said. "They are less afraid of debt than their parents and much more aware of what money can do."

May Day debut

May 1 sees eight new unit trusts from fund managers Standard Life, generally better known for their life and pensions policies. Investors who put money into the new funds between May 1-15 will get an extra 2 per cent allocation of units. "Standard Life has 160 years' experience of managing money and it is well known for its with-profits bonus results," said Tom King, of Standard Life. The company's savings type policies regularly appear in the top ten performance tables of with profits endowment policies.

The eight trusts being launched cover the whole range of investment opportunities from a general managed trust to European, Far East and other specialist trusts. Minimum investment at £1,000 might deter a few.

Beating Big Bang

No frills dealing services offered by stockbrokers are springing up like mushrooms as brokers search around for alternative sources of income before Big Bang does away with fixed commissions. Latest entrant is stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden with its Marketlink service.

Provided you know what you want to buy or sell, Henry Cooke Lumsden will carry out your telephone instructions at one of the most competitive rates in the business. For small bargains of £50 you will be charged a flat commission of £5, between £50 and £100 the commission is £8, between £100 and £500 it is a flat £10 with the normal stock exchange commission of 1.65 per cent being charged above that level.

But all is not sweetness and light in the world of telephone dealing services. One disgruntled reader of The Times complains that when he used Quiter Goodson's Share Shop facility at the Debenhams store in Oxford Street, he got short shrift when he started to ring once or twice a day to check on prices.

Quilters have investigated the complaint. How will Henry Cook Lumsden cope with the potential problem? No broker can afford to answer thousands of customer enquiries. "We will play it by ear" commented David Lumsden.

He sees the spread of share quotation services through Prestel and the like as the answer to this particular problem. Details of the new service from Henry Cooke Lumsden, City Wall House, 84-90 Chiswell Street, London EC4Y 4TX.

First rate monthly income.

The Cheltenham Premier Income Account offers the best monthly income rate from any national building society.

Invest £10,000 or more and we pay you an impressive 8.75% net. Interest is paid on the first of each month, and automatically added to your account to earn the top rate of 9.11% CAR! If you prefer, we can pay your interest directly to another C&G account, your bank or your home. You can also add to your investment at any time with sums of £1,000 or more.

No withdrawals can be made during the first six months after opening the account but thereafter you can make withdrawals of £1,000 or more without notice or penalty. You must maintain a balance of at least £10,000 for the account to remain open.

The rate offered on the Cheltenham Premier Income Account may vary. However, in keeping with our reputation for offering outstanding investment accounts, you can be sure that the rate will remain highly competitive.

To open an account call into your nearest C&G branch. If that is not convenient, you can operate your account from your home or office, post free, with the C&G By Post service.

The Cheltenham Premier Income Account. Another first from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

The Premier INCOME ACCOUNT

9.11% CAR
8.75% NET
ON £10,000 OR MORE

Form for opening a Cheltenham Premier Income Account, including fields for name, address, and postcode.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

CHIEF OFFICE: CHELTENHAM HOUSE, CLARENCE STREET, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. GL50 3JR. TEL: 0242 36161. Member of the Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme. Assets exceed £3,300 million. Branches throughout the UK. See Yellow Pages.

How to know your SRO

Hands up those who are confused by the proliferation of so-called self-regulatory organizations - SROs for short - that have appeared lately. At the moment there are seven actual or mooted SROs, although the Securities and Investments Board, overseer of the individual SROs, is hoping that the final version of city self-regulation will appear with only five SROs.

The merger or convergence of at least two SROs looks likely to happen soon. Nasdim - the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers - is to announce that it is joining up with Lantro - the Life and Unit Trust Intermediaries Regulatory Organization. Nasdim started life as a collection of market makers and portfolio managers, although its membership has

SRO - is having discussions with a steering group from the International Securities Regulatory Organization. Isro is looking to govern matters such as the Eurobond market, swaps and short-term instruments. Its discussions with the Stock Exchange concern trading in international equities, or the leading UK shares, which are often traded between large international institutions without going through the Stock Exchange. The Exchanges does not want to be left out in the cold in the trading of major UK shares, hence its talks with Isro to see if the two can between them produce a self-regulatory framework for the City. Lawrence Lever

Advertisement for London Life 'IT'S YOUR LIFE Saving for Retirement?' with details on net yield of 22% p.a. and contact information.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: 'مكتبة ابن بطوطة'

Imperial Shareholders: which side should you come down on?

United Imperial.

A cohesive group with three related and complementary businesses.

A proven record of success in the management of leading brands.

Opportunities for cost savings and faster profit growth by combining operations.

Profit growth mainly organic, fuelled by high capital investment of over 4% of annual sales in 1985.

All UB's offers provide higher income than Hanson's 'best' bid*

Agreed management plans to exploit growth opportunities in food and leisure industries.

Hanson Trust.

A conglomerate currently operating in some fifteen different business sectors.

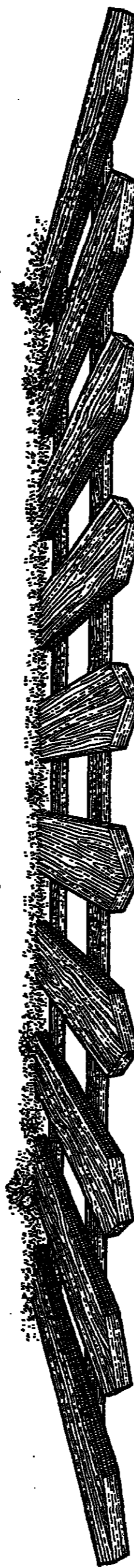
Limited experience of managing branded consumer businesses.

No similar opportunity.

Profit growth mainly by acquisition (capital spending just over 2% of annual sales in 1985).

Hanson's highest income offer (the cash alternative) is worth only 293p per share, or 64p less than Imperial's current market price.

No clear plans. Wait and see.



This stark comparison makes it absolutely clear why the Board of Imperial urgently and unanimously recommend that you accept the United Biscuits offer.

UB and Imperial are natural partners for future growth and prosperity. By accepting the UB offer, you ensure that the majority of your investment will remain in Imperial businesses. This is the only way you can "stay with Imperial."

Time is now short. The future of your company -

its brands, its businesses, its people - may depend on your action.

So please, today, sign and send off the white UB acceptance form. *It must arrive by 3:00 pm this coming Friday, 11th April 1986.*

If you are in any doubt how to complete the form, please telephone our helpline: 0272 666961.

If you would like to hear why your Chairman,

Mr Geoffrey Kent, and the Imperial Board unanimously recommend the UB offer, please ask the operator for Freefone Imperial Group.



DAYS LEFT TO ACCEPT
UB OFFER

10 · 9 · 8 · 7 · 6 · 5 · 4 · 3 · 2 · 1

The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are set out or referred to in Imperial Group and Hanson Trust 1985 Annual Reports, UB's Preliminary Statement and the letter from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 2nd April 1986. Imperial's share price is the closing price on 2nd April 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly. *The reference to Hanson's 'best' bid relates to the Hanson alternative offering the biggest capital value.

FRENCH STOCKS

HARVARD SECURITIES are pleased to announce that we are now making a market in the following French Stocks:-

- ACCOR
- BIC
- CARREFOUR
- CIE BANCAIRE
- CLUB MED
- LOUIS VUITTON
- MOET HENNESSY

Further stocks will be added to in the coming months. If you are interested in trading in French Stocks please contact:- Bryan Symons on 01-928 2237.

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Ground rules for the rental business

PROPERTY

It is estimated that the residential rental market of London flats and houses is now earning the owners well over £40 million a year.

The business has mushroomed in the past two years and is growing, with hundreds of agents opening specialist departments to deal exclusively with rentals.

Though it is possible to acquire substantial rental returns on properties outside London — a three-bedroom house with a swimming pool at £350 a week in Kingston, near London, for instance — the real Golden Triangle is bordered by Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Mayfair.

Many landlords in these places are owners who will have bought their properties years ago at a "historic cost" and for them gross returns on rents are spectacular. Many of them are older and live mostly in the country, so agents have discovered a whole new business in letting their properties, often to overseas personnel.

Where do the tenants come from? A great many seem to be Americans working for banks and corporations. Many others are foreign diplomatic staff and some are just suddenly wealthy individuals whose countries have, for one reason or another, provided them with almost instant wealth — Nigerians, for instance, or some Middle East people who have floated to London on a sea of oil earnings and now educate their children at private schools here.

Latterly the Hong Kong Chinese have made a significant appearance.

Among the most popular tenants are the South Africans and the New Zealanders, who tend to pay regularly, return the property in good order and do not make a fuss.

Among the least popular are the Nigerians who tend to have big families. One horror story told by a London agent was of the family who rented a house at £3,000 a week for three months. Dilapidations cost £5,000.

Some Middle East tenants also fail to get into the landlords' popularity list and for this the recent case of the Syrian who failed to vacate his flat until the Queen personally



Chesterfield Street in Mayfair — part of the Golden Triangle of the property letting business

Here is a real-life example of a landlord's cost and profits for a year's tenancy just ended in Cadogan Square, for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom flat valued at £300,000, with contents insured for £60,000.

Gross rent	£22,100
Outgoings	
Agents' commission	£2,541.50
Inventory	£50
Fates	£1,100.00
Service charge	£2,500.00
Landlord received	£15,958.50

But the story does not end there. During the year the tenant managed to break a lavatory, which cost £515 to repair (the agents just kept on

intervened must bear some blame.

Americans are less popular than they were. As one agent told me: "Some are super — no trouble at all — but some of them seem totally incapable or unwilling to do the simplest thing for themselves."

And since calling in the plumbers of London is now a feat of endurance likely to cost £30 before they even get through the door, tenants who ring the agent to deal with the plumbing are understandably not popular.

What are the financial facts? Savills, one of the biggest agents in the market, estimate that a really spruce two-bedroom flat in the Golden Triangle will earn a gross rent

HISTORY OF A HOUSE TO LET

calling in a plumber until he almost by accident managed to replace it; the waste disposer was replaced at £158 (after it failed to chew up three valuable silver spoons).

Other calls were made because the dishwasher seemed to frighten his wife, the lights fused in the sitting room and that frightened her even more, and when an external overflow actually did just that, the tenants appeared to believe the building would collapse from water pressure.

The landlord said: "Plumbers and electricians never

seemed to be away from the place and I began to think my tenants needed their own private social worker to see them through the rigours of living in SW1 in a flat which had proved an uneventful residence until then."

The landlord received his flat back at the end of the tenancy with a list of "deteriorations", which included a gas log fire and a TV set which did not work and broken tiles in shower and bathroom.

The agent took a sanguine view, wanting to put most of it down to "fair wear and tear."

The landlord's view was that because the repairs and cleaning were to cost about £1,000, "fair wear and tear" was not fair.

The landlord said: "I was holding £1,800 deposit; I just got the work done and sent in the receipts. "Would he do it again? "Yes," he said. "I'm wiser now and, after all, the property can always be cleaned and repaired, providing you have the money in hand."

"The benefit is that the flat continues to increase in value and to provide a useful income while it does."

of £600 a week — about £100 higher than last year.

Other rents are equally enticing — for a three bed property up to £800 is quoted and four bed up to £900. One-off spectaculars can realize up to £3,000 a week, it is claimed.

But they stress that property must be in really good order with excellent carpets and modern fittings and equipment and good quality curtains, preferably design-coordinated.

Hamptons, also big in the market, put out a landlord's brochure detailing precisely the cost of services offered and likely rents. But it is noticeable how little responsibility agents accept.

of gross rentals plus VAT (actually 11.5 per cent) they tend to look on the bright side and sweep initial difficulties away. A great many landlords and, let it be said, company letting representatives, think they do very little for their money.

Agents say they provide a "full management" service or 15 per cent plus VAT — that's 18 per cent of the gross rental. What it seems to come down to in reality is that they will call the plumber for you if the tenant wishes it; they will pay outgoings like rates if you leave them the money (and they pick up the interest meanwhile) and if a machine breaks down they will replace it — at the landlord's cost.

They generally take the easiest way out and won't test machines for being in working order first. They also charge about £30 a visit to go around to the flat when asked. For their fees they say they take up tenants' references. Not all are spectacularly successful as the landlord of the Syrian tenant found to his cost.

Most agents appear to be networked. If you employ one you seem to have most of the rest of them. A new service, FAX, links subscribing agents to a computer for vacant properties. It is provided by Property Data Services and information is sent through the telephone system. It is very efficient if kept up to date by subscribers.

To anyone thinking of let-

ting a valuable London property there are some absolutely golden rules.

Do not ever be persuaded to let to an individual. It has to be a company or embassy — the Shortlet Leasing Act notwithstanding. Owners should remember they are letting a property worth anything from £150,000 to £1 million to just a month's rent that they will get the place back on time and in good order. That's the real equation.

Foreigners newly arrived at our shores take only days to learn how helpful our Rent Acts are to them, although at first they find it difficult to believe that a Government would be as benevolent to them as our own.

Agents will urge owners to "take a view" on the acceptability of some would-be tenant whose company won't sign on the dotted line. Don't.

Some companies won't sign because they have learned in the past how much trouble a bad tenant can cause. Companies inevitably pay up — individuals don't. The growth of the market has come about because London flats are not so valuable, even international companies are unwilling to tie up huge sums of capital to house an executive in a company flat. Rents come out of income — purchases are capital.

Some agents demand the whole year's letting fee from the first quarter's rent. If the tenant then reneges the owner has neither rent nor tenant. Companies don't renege.

Golden rule number two is: take a deposit, as large as you can get and certainly a tenth of the annual rent, and keep it yourself. The agent will try to insist that he keeps it (and the year's interest on it).

But do not be persuaded. At the end of the tenancy he will want to solve any little domestic difficulties in record time — which usually means he's not too interested that your antique chair will cost £500 to recover when the tenant offers just £50. Agents also have their eyes on the company's next tenant.

If you've got the cash you get the job done and send the receipt to the company. It is a tough business.

Mary Griffiths

RETIRED?

WE GUARANTEE TO MAXIMISE YOUR INCOME

- How?
 - * By advising you which investment gives the most income (a man aged 65 with no life insurance could expect to receive 12.6% p.a. net guaranteed).
 - * By reducing your income tax bill (many retired people lose out unnecessarily on the age allowance).
 - * By making your capital grow to increase your income in the future.

Knight Williams has specialised for many years in identifying income investments for retired people. Send for full details.

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 Address _____

IF YOU WANT THE WORLD BUY IT FROM WARDLEY!

Wardley's International Growth Trust + 54% in the 19 weeks since launch*

The International Growth Trust
 Back in November 1985, when Wardley decided to relaunch their International Growth Trust (formerly the Wardley Natural Resources Trust) they did so for very good reasons.

Market Investments
 Every year investors see some markets perform exceptionally well and others do badly. Over the last year the most attractive has been Europe, whilst markets such as Hong Kong and Singapore have performed with much less flair. In the long term, one can expect cyclical performance from any market but in the short term you need to check regularly that your money is invested in the right area.

Investment Policy
 Our Managers set about creating a unit trust that could move around the world at will. And into any market, be it ordinary shares, fixed interest securities or simply hard currency. This policy has been put into practice with substantial gains after only nineteen weeks. In that time, investors who placed £1000 with the Wardley International Growth Trust have seen it grow to £1540 net of charges!

Of course, this rate of growth cannot be guaranteed to continue and the value of units and income can go down as well as up. However, Wardley is confident that it will continue to invest in the right markets at the

right time — with all-out capital growth as the prime target.

Current Tactics
 The International Growth Trust is truly international — we are currently invested (as at 1/4/86) as follows: USA 25%, UK 20%, France 18%, Sweden 9%, Japan 8%, Italy 7%, Germany 6%, others 7%.

Wardley Around the World
 Wardley, with its extensive network of on-the-spot researchers and investment professionals, is particularly well equipped to buy the world.

In Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Melbourne and Singapore, Wardley offices continuously monitor and invest in their own markets — co-ordinated from our office in the City of London. Thus, when changes occur in far away places, we are ideally placed to react with great speed.

Recently, the stockmarkets of Japan, Spain and interestingly the Philippines experienced some significant rises. Wardley's International Growth Trust reacted by buying into these markets with excellent results.

Wardley's Pedigree
 We are a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which has over 40,000 employees working in more than 1200 offices in over 50 countries. Truly International!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dealing in Units: Units will be bought at the ruling Offer price on any business day on which orders are received. (As a guide the Offer price on 2nd April 1986 was 72p). A Contract Note will be sent immediately your application is received — and your Unit Certificate will normally follow within the next 42 days. When you sell your units, payment will be made at the Bid price, normally within 7 days of the receipt of your renounced Unit Certificate.

Prices and yield: The current prices and yield are quoted daily in the Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and The Times.

Income: The estimated gross current yield on 10th March 1986 was 1.4% per annum. Net income is distributed annually on 31st August.

Charges: An initial charge of 3% is included in the price of units. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries, the rates being available on request. An annual management charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the income (or capital, if there is insufficient income).

Safeguards: The Trust is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a wider range investment under the Trustee Investment Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Management Company: Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited, Reg. No. 1218445 England. Registered Office: Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HN. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

Wardley
 A World of Experience

Application for Investment in the Wardley International Growth Trust

1% DISCOUNT for investments of £1,000 to £4,999.
 2% DISCOUNT for investments of £5,000 and above.
 If you invest by 15.4.86

I/We apply for units to the value of £ (min £1,000) at the Managers' quoted offer price on receipt of this application.

Surname _____
 First names _____
 Address _____

 Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____
 Date _____

In the case of joint applications, each must sign and attach full names.
 Please tick the appropriate box(es) if you would like:
 (i) Income distributions reinvested
 (ii) details of our Share Exchange Scheme
 (iii) details of regular monthly savings
 Please send this completed application form and cheque for the amount you wish to invest to:

Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited
 Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square,
 London EC2M 4HN.
 Telephone: 01-929 1532 or 1534.
 (Not applicable in Eire) T61

FOR £5,000 AND OVER

9.00% NET = 12.68% GROSS*

60 DAYS' NOTICE SHARES

Withdrawals at 60 days' notice or on demand with 60 days' loss of interest. No notice or loss of interest if balance of £10,000 maintained. Monthly income available at 8.50% net.

For investments of £500-£4,999
 8.75% net = 12.32% gross*

*Equivalent yield to basic rate taxpayers. Interest rates variable.

To: Walthamstow Building Society, Freeport, Walthamstow E17 4BR
 Tel: 01-531 3231 (24 hr service). We enclose cheque for £ to open a 60 Days' Notice Shares Account with interest added annually or paid monthly (min. balance £5,000).
 Please send further information on 60 Days' Notice Shares.
 Name(s) _____
 Address _____
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Signatures(s) _____
 Assets exceed £10 million. Member of the Building Societies Association

Walthamstow

OFFER CLOSES APRIL 30TH

13% NET

GUARANTEED 1 YEAR BUILDING SOCIETY RETURN

This is your last chance to invest in our highly popular Trust Bonus Bond (3rd issue) with your investment divided to secure a guaranteed one year return of 13% net on your account with one of the biggest Societies and the balance invested in a £400 million Managed Fund that has averaged 18% p.a. net since it started in 1977!

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NASDIM T54 E

British TELECOM

ACT BEFORE WEDNESDAY APRIL 9

NEWS FOR INVESTORS

THE LAST CHANCE TO MAKE THE FINAL PAYMENT ON YOUR SHARES.

Your payment for the last instalment on your British Telecom shares must be made no later than Wednesday April 9.

If you have not already done so, act today to ensure that payment is received by the Government before 3.00pm next Wednesday.

If you have not received a request to pay the final instalment, or if you have any questions about what to do, you are advised to ring the BT shareholder enquiry units on either of the following numbers:

LinkLine 0345 010505
 0345 010707

These LinkLine numbers enable you to call from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call.

Investing for growth.

For daily information on the British Telecom share price, dial Shareline on: Belfast 0233 8030, Birmingham 021-246 1829, Bristol 0272-215444, Cardiff 02225 8027, Edinburgh 031-447 0333, Glasgow 041-248 4403, Leeds 0532 8708, Liverpool 051-488097, London 01-246 6022, Manchester 061-246 6050, British Telecom Investor Relations Office 01-356 6983

Handwritten note: *دو ایس ایس*

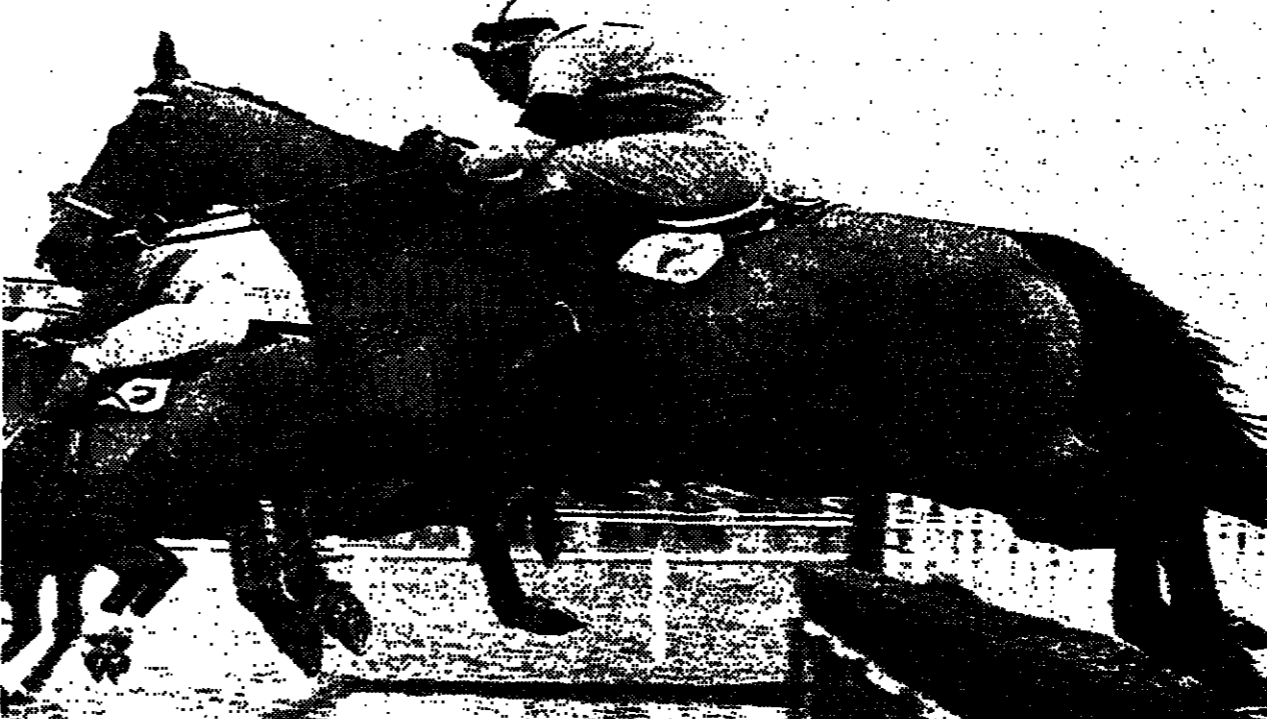
RACING: RECENT EVENTS POINT TO THE HORSE WHO WAS GOING LIKE A WINNER BEFORE FALLING LAST YEAR

GRAND NATIONAL FIELD

3.20 SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (E60,647; 4m 4f) (40 runners)

- 301 2111ZF ESSEX (Hunt) (J Cuba) V Chaloupka 8-12-0 Mr V Chaloupka (White, red seams and disc, gold ear of corn, red cap)
302 000412 CORBIERE (C-D) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 11-1-17 B de Haan (Light blue and orange chevrons, blue sleeves and cap)
303 3P-0020 DRUMLARGAN (Mrs G Webb Brontman) E O'Grady (Ira) 12-11-6 T J Ryan (White, dark blue sash, striped cap)
304 022220 KILKILLOWEN (Exors late Mrs S Collen) J Dreaper (Ira) 10-11-3 K Morgan (Black, purple sleeves, striped cap)
305 12P1-11 LAST SUSPECT (C-D) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 12-11-2 H Davies (Yellow, narrow black belt and cap with gold tassels)
306 31F223 DOOR LATCH (BF) (H Joel) J Gifford 8-11-0 R Rowe (Black, white sash, striped cap)
307 0-1329D ACARINE (Mrs P W Harris) P W Harris 10-10-13 R Stronge (Emerald green, red sash, yellow sleeves and cap)
308 220001 WEST TIP (P Lift) M Oliver 9-10-11 R Dunwoody (Black, black sash, striped and hoop on cap)
309 23P130 GREASEPAINT (M Smurfit) D Weld (Ira) 11-10-8 T Carmody (Light blue and red halvet, white sleeves, light blue cap)
310 032910 BALLINACURRA LAD (Mrs A Moynihan) M Pipe 11-10-8 G Bradley (Black, white sash, maroon cap, yellow stripes)
311 0F-2241 HALLO DANDY (C-D) (R Shaw) G Richards 12-10-8 N Doughty (Black, black cap, emerald green spots)
312 12-P022 MR SNUGFT (BF) (T Ramsden) M W Easterby 9-10-7 P Tuck (Black, white and white hoops, white sleeves, blue cap)
313 024021 THE TSAREVICH (Maj J Straker) N Henderson 10-10-7 J White (Black, blue cap)
314 3212-F0 LANTERN LODGE (Mrs M Farrell) P Mullins (Ira) 9-10-7 A Mullins (Black, blue sash and hoop on sleeves, royal blue cap)
315 1/30-4PP TRACY'S SPECIAL (L Ames) A Turrell 9-10-6 S C Knight (Navy, grey and royal blue hoops, navy sleeves, royal blue cap)
316 0-10100 BROOMY BANK (Capt J Lumsden) J Edwards 11-10-3 P Scudamore (Black, gold sash, gold cap, striped sleeves)
317 130-000 CLASSIFIED (Chevelay Park Stud) N Henderson 10-10-3 S Smith Eccles (Red, white sash, light blue cap)
318 1211P/3 GAYLE WARNING (C) (J Dudgeon) J Dudgeon 12-10-3 Mr A Dudgeon (White, scarlet sleeves, black cap, white spots)
319 142003 WHY FORGET (P Piller) W A Stephenson 10-10-10 R Lamb (Yellow, royal blue stripes, arms and cap)
320 0046-2 ANOTHER DUKE (D Lymann) P Davis 13-10-0 P Nicholls (White, emerald green sash, green cap, white star)
321 214/040 PLUNDERING (BF) (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 10-10-0 S Sharwood (Black, white sash, striped cap, striped sleeves)
322 30F-0PP TACROY (A Duffield) G Calvert 12-10-0 A Stringer (White, red diamond and sleeves, white cap)
323 23AP00 IMPERIAL BLACK (T Webster) D McCain 10-10-0 R Crank (Black, royal blue striped sleeves and cap)
324 4020-00 RUPERTINO (Lord Kerryon) E H Owen jun 11-10-0 G Charles Jones (Yellow, royal blue striped sleeves and cap)
325 23-0100 SOMMELIER (D Wates) R Gow 8-10-0 T J Taaffe (Maroon, black hoop and cap)
326 4PP020 YOUNG DRIVER (J Russell) J S Wilson 9-10-0 C Grant (Yellow, royal blue chevrons and cap)
327 001141 MONANORE (J Meagher) W Harney (Ira) 9-10-0 T Morgan (Yellow, brown cross belts, green cap)
328 3P0044 DUDEE (J Halewood) D McCain 8-10-0 K Doolan (Black, white and white striped sleeves, hooped cap)
329 20-0411 KNOCK HILL (P Thompson) J Webber 10-10-0 M Dwyer (White, black sash and arms, red cap, black star)
330 F-23P01 BALLYMILAN (C) (F Sheridan) F Sheridan 9-10-0 C Hawkins (Emerald green and yellow halvet, sleeves reversed, checked cap)
331 213224 FETHARD FRIEND (BF) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 11-10-0 P Barton (Red, white cap, green diamond)
332 PU030F LATE NIGHT EXTRA (L-Col E Phillips) K Bailey 10-10-0 Mr T Thomson Jones (Dark green, red chevrons, hooped cap)
333 304-444 MASTER TERCEL (B Monkhouse) D Thom 10-10-0 E Murphy (Red, black stars, black cap)
334 220320 ST ALEZAN (Lord Coventry) M Tate 9-10-0 C Smith (Chocolate, pale blue sleeves and cap)
335 20-0322 PORT ASKAIG (B) (Lord Chelsea) T Forster 9-10-0 G McCourt (Brown, tan blue epaulettes and cap)
336 3-PP201 LITTLE POLVEIR (M Stone) J Edwards 9-10-0 C Brown (Red, white sleeves, red and grey segmented cap)
337 P4-P400 DOUBLEJAGAIN (B Clark) C Holmes 12-10-0 C Mann (White, white cross belts, purple cap)
338 1111-0F TEN CHERRIES (BF) (M Bell) Mrs M Rimell 11-10-0 A Sharpe (White, black hoops, white sleeves, red cap)
339 002321 NORTHERN BAY (D) (Chevelay Park Stud) T Bill 10-10-0 Philip Hobbs (Red, white sash, black cap)
340 0P3043 MOUNT OLIVER (B) (D Smith) M Scudamore 9-10-0 J Bryan (Black and red stripes, white sleeves, striped cap)

Stand by West Tip and Dunwoody Weld's old faithful may have his day



West Tip, who has been heavily backed after returning to his best form at exactly the right time

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips) West Tip has been my fancy for this year's Grand National, sponsored again by Seagram, ever since he ran so well before toppling over on landing over Becher's Brook second time around 12 months ago. I shall always believe that he was going like a winner then. And I know that his rider Richard Dunwoody also thinks that he would have won, because the West Tip was almost running away with the race at the time of his disaster, so easily was he going.

Perhaps, on reflection, he was going too well and I got there too soon. West Tip was Dunwoody's recent, useful comment when we discussed his prospects, which he rates equally good this year given better luck. And, three things have happened of late to convince me that WEST TIP can compensate his followers this afternoon. First, he has struck form at precisely the right moment with a good confidence-building win at Newbury a fortnight ago. Second, Beau Rager, the horse that beat that day, has just given his form an almost unbelievable boost by beating Wayward Lad and Very Promising here on Thursday. On the same day, Dunwoody himself received the perfect shot in the arm when he won the Whitbread Trophy over the Grand National fences on Glenree. So his confidence will be sky high. But will West Tip, following that fall a year ago? That is the crucial question which only another trip around Liverpool will answer.

Dunwoody's strategy has no qualms and nor do I. Having never taken my glasses off him for a second in either of his last two races, I am inclined to agree that his fall last year was a one-off. Each time his jumping was a perfect blend of brilliance and safety and I will be disappointed if his dexterity proves vulnerable again. I will also be disappointed if he is not good enough to win with only 10st 11lb on his back. For he is a good horse who stays really well and I reckon that the ground will suit him, too, because it was much the same when he won at Newbury recently. So, there my case rests. What now of the dangers?

Corbiere, Hello Dandy and The Tsarevich are the three that I take to fill the places. In my opinion, no short list is complete without Corbiere, the winner in 1983 and placed third in both subsequent runnings. Clearly he does not know how to run a bad race around Aintree. And contrary to what his trainer, Jenny Pitman, says the handicapper has not been hard on him because he will be meeting

Last Suspect and Mr Snugft, last year's winner and second, on 14lb and 10lb better terms. Corbiere has 11st 7lb to carry this afternoon. In his last three ventures to Aintree he has carried 11st 10lb; 12st and 11st 4lb. Hallo Dandy, the victor two years ago, was a faller at the first fence last year. Trained by Gordon Richards, who also won with Lucius Hallo Dandy is thought to be at his peak now following a good win at Ayr four weeks ago. He will also relish the ground. Another likely to be in his element is The Tsarevich, a 10-year-old with a touch of class capable of winning the Midway of Flete challenge Trophy at Cheltenham for the past two seasons. As a 2 1/2 mile specialist around park courses there must be a doubt about him lasting today's marathon trip at Aintree.

However, those who fancy him can draw confidence from the achievements of both Gay Trip and Specify who were cast in a similar mould. But when all is said and done the National is basically a stayers' race even on good ground and I think that the long run-in could prove The Tsarevich's undoing if he is still in contention jumping the last.

The history of the National is littered with fairytale at the end of the day I reckon that West Tip's recovery from a near fatal collision with a lorry - the scars are still only too apparent - is more likely to whet my appetite than the life of Essex behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia.

There was a time when I would have considered Drumlargan a likely winner, especially if it was very soft underfoot, but those times have long since past. Second favourite a year ago he never really got into the race proper and he was eventually pulled up with a broken blood vessel. Kilkilowen jumped these big fences brilliantly last year when he finished third in the Whitbread Trophy, but another circuit of the course confronts him this time and the feeling is that his stamina will run out long before the end. On the other hand no distance is too far for last year's winner, Last Suspect. The question is will his temperament, which has always been suspect, survive the examination again, especially when the ground is likely to be faster than he really cares for.

Door Latch is a good jumper, who has been competing with the best this season. But he is only eight years old and I cannot help but wonder whether such a searching test as this is not coming a year too soon. On the handicap, though, he has much the same sort of chance as West Tip, so I cannot put anyone off backing him.

Having finished second in the race twice and fourth once, Greasepaint boasts a record that is almost as good as Corbiere's. My feeling is that he has had his chance, but he will relish the good going, whereas I am sure that Ballinacurra Lad would like it much softer. The same comment applies to last year's runner-up, Mr Snugft, who was bought recently by Terry Ramsden, one of the more flamboyant owners of today.

Classified and Northern Bay are others to have changed hands recently. As a result of deals struck only this week they now both belong to the Chevelay Park Stud. Last year they enjoyed differing experiences, Classified finishing fifth, Northern Bay falling at the second. They are also totally different types. Classified being in the 2 1/2-mile mould, Northern Bay an out-and-out stayer.

This season Northern Bay's form is entwined with that of Knock Hill, another to have proved himself over four miles or more. Supporters of Broomy Bank will be hoping that this is a case of third time lucky. These days he seems either to win or finish unplaced with no in between.

Having won the Foxhunters' Chase over the big fences two years ago, Gayle Warning is in the Spartan Missile category. He missed all of last season, but ran respectably in his first and only race this year at Kelso recently.

Plundering, from Fred Winter's stable, would have been on my shortlist but for that rather indifferent performance at Newbury 15 days ago. A close fourth in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown two seasons ago, he has always been seen as a good grand National horse by his immensely experienced trainer, who is one of few men to have both ridden and trained the winner of the great race.

Imperial Black and Rupertino finished sixth and seventh in the race 12 months ago. They will exceed if they do better this afternoon. In an attempt to win the race for a fourth time, Tim Forster, the Letcombe Bassett trainer, will be saddling Port Askaig in addition to Last Suspect. I find it significant that Dunwoody asked to be excused the ride on Port Askaig so that he could partner West Tip instead, but then horses have made fools of humans before and it could easily happen again in this of all races.

Graham McCourt, the man called upon to deputise for Dunwoody on Port Askaig was certainly in brilliant form on Thursday when he landed a 179-1 double, so Lord Chelsea's 11-year-old will have the best possible assistance from the saddle. And remember Forster has done it before with 40-1 and 50-1 outsiders, besides his well-financed winner, Well To Do, who started at 14-1. Forster will emulate the late and great trainer, Fred Rimell, if either of his runners wins this afternoon and triumphs for a fourth time.

The National dates from 1837, and in the early days took place over fields and farmland at nearby Maghull. The Duke, who won the first two runnings, jumped 40 fences and took "about 15 minutes" to get round.

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The confidence of Dermot Weld in the ability of Greasepaint to win the Grand National at his fourth attempt after three honorable failures was brightened when the ground started to dry out yesterday afternoon and when he saddled his four-year-old, Dark Raven, for the first time at Aintree with consummate ease.

Greasepaint fits well into the category of tried and true Aintree performers, having finished second to Cashmere, third to Hello Dandy and fourth to Last Suspect in the last three runnings of the race. It is perhaps a little odd to reflect that in the period covered by these three years Greasepaint has managed to win only one small race. That success was a very vital one to the Tramore New Year's Day meeting, for had he failed there, would have had no other opportunity of qualifying for today's race.

This saga of failures is no reflection upon his ability, but rather on his growing distaste for soft ground. He showed what he was capable of when he had underfoot conditions to his liking with a splendid run under top weight of 12st in the Digital Gateway Chase, the premier summer chase in Great Britain. Heavily backed, he did not look as if he would reach the first fence for he was trailing five of his rivals, but he put in a stunning run up the hill on a section only a length by Chew Meik.

All through the winter Weld has had only one race in mind for Greasepaint and he struck an extremely optimistic note yesterday evening about the way in which he has come through his preparation.

The faster ground will, on the other hand be against Drumlargan and Monanore. The former broke a blood vessel in his race last year and, although he has come through his preparation, he has lost a lot of speed, but Monanore has certainly improved considerably since the beginning of the year.

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Weld's old faithful may have his day

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

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A to Z guide to the 40 big-race contenders

ACARINE: Has lost his sparkle in recent races, but would have an each-way chance on last season's good form. Robert Stronge has given up the ride on Rupertino to partner Acarine, who is suited by soft ground and forcing tactics.

ANOTHER DUKE: Having leased the 13-year-old just 10 days ago, Desmond Lynam, the BBC's anchor man, will be hoping to see him produce a grandstand finish. Ran well at last year's Cheltenham Festival and is one of the better longshots.

BALLYMILAN: Trained under permit near Leamington by Felix Sheridan, this genuine stayer is a half-brother to the 1983 third, Yer Man. Won well at Newbury a fortnight ago and is good value at 50-1.

BROOMY BANK (-8:U): Deserted by stable jockey, Paul Barton, in favour of Fethard Friend, so John Edwards has secured the season's leading ride, Peter Scudamore, for what he believes to be the best of his trio. Unlucky in running last year following fair effort in 1984.

CLASSIFIED (-5:5): Bought on Wednesday by the Chevelay Park Stud, Classified has had a much lighter preparation than 12 months ago when he finished fifth. Represents See You Then team of Steve Smith Eccles and Nicky Henderson, who will be praying for a drying wind for both his runners today.

CORBIERE (1:3:3): The nearest thing we have seen to Red Rum this decade, but mercifully treated by the handicapper. Despite this, Corbiere is sure to run his usual game race and is likely to be the most popular each-way choice.

DRUMLARGAN (-:~:~P): Should be topweight today on all known form, having finished third to Burrough Hill Lad in 1984 Gold Cup and won the Whitbread the previous year. Jumped well last year until breaking a blood vessel and 40-1 looks over-generous for one of his proven class.

DUDEE (-:~:~F): Fell at nineteenth last year after leading for first half of race and making several jumping errors. Has recently joined Red Rum's trainer, Donald McCain, but seems unlikely to complete, let alone win.

ESSEX: Trained in Czechoslovakia, bred in Hungary and with Russian and Venezuelan blood lines, Essex will add great colour to the occasion. Coach loads of supporters from his homeland have travelled to watch this first Iron Curtain runner for 25 years. His trainer, Vaclav Chaloupka, injured his hand on a stable door on Thursday, but will ride come what may.

FETHARD FRIEND (-:~:~P): Surprisingly chosen by stable jockey Paul Barton in preference to Broomy Bank. Second in 1982 Irish National and seventh to Hallo Dandy here two years ago when trained in Ireland. Has had only one race since October so will strip fresher than most.

GAYLE WARNING: proved his ability to jump these fences when winning 1984 Foxhunters - a race Gritter landed on way to winning 1982 National. Genuine and acts on any going.

GREASEPAINT (2:2:4): Like Corbiere, a highly perennial, but must have fast ground. With Drumlargan, Monanore and Kilkilowen also in field, Greasepaint leads one of strongest Irish challenges in recent years.

HALLO DANDY (4:1:F): Reunited with his regular jockey, Neale Doughty, who won on him two years ago, Hallo Dandy has had perfect gentle build-up. His first fence error 12 months ago was most uncharacteristic and he is better handicapped now than for two years. Acts on any going, but is best on good ground.

IMPERIAL BLACK (-:U:6): Donald McCain's first string is without a win for 27 months, but finished a fair sixth last year. Has changed stables twice since and that is hardly the perfect preparation.

KILKILLOWEN: Jumped the National fences brilliantly when third in last year's Whitbread Trophy under 12 st. But his trainer, Jim Dreaper (son of Arke's trainer, Tom Dreaper) has voiced doubts about his stamina.

KNOCK HILL: An american-owned horse has won five times in the last 22 years and Peter Thompson has a fair chance of joining the owners of Ben Nevis, L'Escarpe, Highland Wedding, Jay Trump and Team Spirit on the roll of honour. Has won twice over four miles this season and finished second in Whitbread Trophy last year, handling these fences well. A chance first ride for Mark Dwyer.

LANTERN LODGE: Has already won a National - the slightly less celebrated Guinness Kerry National at Listowel in 1984. Lightly-raced since and now partnered by Tony Mullins, who lost ride on Gold Cup winner, Dawn Ruia, to John O'Neill.

LAST SUSPECT (-:~:~I): Made many scribes, myself included, eat humble pie last year and I do not fancy a second helping. Brought out of retirement by Anne, Duchess of Westminster (Arke's owner), Last Suspect could not have been more impressive in his two Chestnut wins. Connections are likely to be doing a rain dance about now.

LATE NIGHT EXTRA: Has failed to get round three times this season - hardly the right credentials for a National hopeful. Leading amateur Tim Thomson Jones will need to draw on all his experience to survive.

LITTLE POLVEIR: The outsider of John Edwards's trio, but no forlorn hope. Won good trial at Sandown last season and returned to form right on cue at Ludlow last week.

MASTER TERCEL: Now trained at Newmarket by David Thom, Master Tercel was bought out of John Spearing's stable for only 1,900 guineas, which could prove a bargain. This well-bred winner of six races showed he can jump these fences when fifth in last year's Whitbread Trophy.

MONANORE: One of only five horses trained by veterinary surgeon, Bill Harney, in Co. Tipperary. Possibly the No. 1 hope of the Irish, who have not scored since L'Escarpe 11 years ago. Acts on any ground but best in the mud.

MOUNT OLIVER: His trainer, Michael Scudamore, won the race as a jockey on Oxo in 1959, but the inconsistent Mount Oliver seems unlikely to provide him with further National glory.

MR SNUGFT (-:~:~2): Was having his ninth race of season when second 12 months ago, carrying 17lb more than his long handicap weight. Has had much lighter preparation this time and is handicapped to take revenge on Last Suspect. Mick Easterby has proved his ability to get a horse spot-on for a big race with Lochnagar (champion sprinter) and Mrs McCarty (1,000 Guineas) so do not be put off by his poor early form this season.

NORTHERN BAY (-:~:~F): Trained at Ashby-de-la-Zouch by Tom Bill, who has remarkable record at Cheltenham Festival and Aintree meetings. Northern Bay won twice over four miles or more last season and is most consistent. Best at fast ground.

PLUNDERING: Has not produced his best for two years, but would have a sound chance if reproducing form which saw him finish close fourth in Whitbread Gold Cup. His trainer, Fred Winter, has already ridden two winners (Sundew and Kilmore) and trained two (Jay Trump and Anglo).

PORT ASKAIG: The second string of Tim Forster who would equal Fred Rimell's post-war record of four training triumphs if either this one or Last Suspect were successful. Richard Dunwoody would be red-faced if Port Askaig won as he has given up the ride to partner West Tip. Consistent and stays well.

RUPERTINO (-:~:~7): After early mistakes, ran a blinder last year to finish seventh. Has been tenderly handled this season and is an outsider with distinct each-way possibilities.

SOMMELIER: Will be ridden for the first time by Tom Taaffe, whose father, Pat, won on Quare Times and Gay Trip. This dur

Hopes for \$8m O'Brien colt

In Ireland, the Phoenix Park season gets underway and the team of Vassett O'Brien and Pat Wicks get together for the first time in 1986 (Our Irish Correspondent writes). The first runner from the yard, Imperial Falcon, should certainly be capable of winning the Faganus Stud Maiden for he was expected to have improved over the winter having run eight of 10 to his stable companion, Woodman, in the Ferraris Futurity Stakes. Imperial Falcon is the Northern Dancer colt who fetched \$8.25m in a disputed Reemland Sales transaction.



Gordon Richards and Neale Doughty, responsible for 1984 winner, Hallo Dandy

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Saturday Weekend television and radio programmes Sunday

Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Davalle

- BBC 1
6.45 Open University Materials processing: metal. 7.10 A Question of Control. 7.35 Physics. 8.00 Work and...

- TV-AM
6.55 Good Morning Britain: News with Kay Burley at 7.05. Weather at 8.25. Sport with Mike Morris at 7.15. 7.30 The Wide Awake Club with Tommy Boyd, Arabella Warner and James Baker, dolphin trainer, makes a splash. 8.25 News.



Nick Grace and the Spitzire he has rebuilt: The Perfect Lady, a TVS documentary, is on Channel 4 at 7.30pm

- BBC 2
8.50 Open University Mapping in the Yorkshire Dales 7.15 Music 7.40 Language Development 8.05 Science in Class 8.55 Weapons Procurement 9.20 The Spectrum of San Diego 9.45 Chemistry 10.10 Pure Maths 10.35 Maths: 11.00 Dickens and popular imagery 11.25 Maths: Complex functions 11.50 The shape of things to come 12.15 Maths: the Genetics Game 12.40 Modern art 1.05 Cropping the countryside 1.30 Crustal and mantle processes

- BBC 1
6.45 Open University Technology: 7.10 Computing. 7.35 Testing Infrans. 8.00 Oceanography. 8.25 Stereochemistry. 8.55 Play School. 9.15 Knock Knock about God's wide world (r). This is the Day Catriona Healy, a member of a Roman Catholic women's community, the Grail.

- TV-AM
6.55 Good Morning Britain Thought for a Sunday. 7.00 The Little. 7.25 Are you awake Yet? songs, jokes and cartoon. 7.45 Cwac Cwac. 7.50 What's News 8.10 Pick of the Week 8.27 News Headlines 8.30 Jonathan Dimbleby on Sunday.



Oleg Rodnik and Tommy Lee Jones: Double Image (BBC 2, 10.05pm). Alan Jones and Jeanette MacDonald (Channel 4, 2.00)

- BBC 2
6.50 Open University Mathematical functions 7.15 Biology 7.40 The Gun Industry 8.30 Potsdam 8.55 Tin 9.20 Cogs in the Wheel 9.45 Real exponential functions 10.10 Art 10.35 Light 11.00 Open Forum 11.25 Society 11.50 Maths 12.15 Limestones 12.40 The Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution 1.05 Engineering mechanics 1.30 Beneath Scotland. 2.59 Rugby Special John Player Special Cup semi-final.

- Radio 4
On long wave. For VHF stereo variations, see end of Radio 4 listings. 6.55 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Today's News selected by Michael Ford (s) 6.30 News: Farming Today 6.50 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.55 Weather: Travel. 7.00 News 7.10 Today's Papers 7.15 On Your Own 7.20 Today's News: A guide to the week with Rosemary Harris 7.50 Down to Earth. Weekend gardening 7.55 Weather: Travel. 8.00 News 8.15 Sport on 4. Includes a look ahead to the Grand National to be run this afternoon. 8.48 Breakaway. Bernard Falk presents a practical guide to holidays (s) 8.57 Weather: Travel. 8.00 News 9.50 News Stand. Aural Steves reviews the weekly magazines. 10.05 Talking Politics, with Jonathan Smeaton. 10.30 Loose Ends with Ned Sherrin and his studio team including Angela Cardon and Matt Coward. From Our Own Correspondent. Life and politics abroad, reported by our own correspondents. 12.00 News: Money Box. 12.27 Take Me to Your Leader. Tim Baskin reviews 'Writer's Block', Comedy series about a firm of book publishers. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News 1.10 Any Questions? with Marcus Fox, MP, Aneurin Bevan, MP, and Claire Brooks. From Wakefield in Yorkshire (s). 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News: The Storytellers a series of seven dramatized stories (r) 'Candide' by Voltaire. With Martin Poynton, Bennett Wittow, Alan Bennett and Helena Brack (s) 3.00 News: International Assignment. BBC correspondents report from across the world. 3.30 The Saturday Feature: The Black Obelisk. A portrait of the tragedian Ian McKellen. With Eric Fry Evans as the actor. 4.15 Not Another Diet Programme. In the final programme of his series, Dr Alan Marjoribanks explains how healthy eating is all a question of balance. 4.45 The Fosdyke Saga II. Series based on Bill Taylor's cartoon strip (s). 5.00 The Living World. Naturalists answer listeners' questions (s) 5.25 Week Ending. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather: Sports. 6.00 News: Sports Round-Up. Stop that! Week with Robert Robinson and his studio guests. Sue Casson provides the musical interlude. 7.00 Saturday Night Theatre. The Wickedness of Brinsingham by Alan Garner. With Robert...

- Radio 3
On medium wave. VHF stereo variations appear at end of Radio 3. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News: 7.05 News: Brains (Academic Festival Overture), Chopin (Variations brillantes in B flat, Op 12 Years On (s). 4.30 Literary Wakes. A walk around Gramercy to find out about Dorothy and William Wordsworth. 4.30 Landscapes of the Night. Dreams and dreaming. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News: The Storytellers a series of seven dramatized stories (r) 'Candide' by Voltaire. With Martin Poynton, Bennett Wittow, Alan Bennett and Helena Brack (s) 3.00 News: International Assignment. BBC correspondents report from across the world. 3.30 The Saturday Feature: The Black Obelisk. A portrait of the tragedian Ian McKellen. With Eric Fry Evans as the actor. 4.15 Not Another Diet Programme. In the final programme of his series, Dr Alan Marjoribanks explains how healthy eating is all a question of balance. 4.45 The Fosdyke Saga II. Series based on Bill Taylor's cartoon strip (s). 5.00 The Living World. Naturalists answer listeners' questions (s) 5.25 Week Ending. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather: Sports. 6.00 News: Sports Round-Up. Stop that! Week with Robert Robinson and his studio guests. Sue Casson provides the musical interlude. 7.00 Saturday Night Theatre. The Wickedness of Brinsingham by Alan Garner. With Robert...

- Radio 1
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- Radio 3
On medium wave. VHF stereo variations as indicated. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News: 7.05 News: Brains (Les francs jupes overture). Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135). Bellini (Scena and Cavatina from Il Pirata, Act 1, with Callas in cast). Mendelssohn (Flauto) More radio-plus Regional TV, on facing page. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News: 7.05 News: Brains (Les francs jupes overture). Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135). Bellini (Scena and Cavatina from Il Pirata, Act 1, with Callas in cast). Mendelssohn (Flauto) More radio-plus Regional TV, on facing page.

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD
TODAY JASON CONNERY BECOMES A LEGEND... The eagerly awaited third series of ROBIN OF SHERWOOD begins TONIGHT ON ITV starring JASON CONNERY as the woodland freedom fighter and JUDI TROTT as Maid Marion ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL DRAMA FROM HTV

SPORT

England form takes heavy toll at the gate

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

England kept themselves in the fourth Test match, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, here yesterday by picking up the wickets of both West Indian openers before lunch, taken at 72 for 2. Embury found that for him, as well as for the faster bowlers, the pitch had something to offer, and the bounce was again inconsistent. Greenidge departed to a ball that never left the ground.

Play began before the smallest crowd I have seen anywhere in the world for the second day of a Test match. I doubt whether there were 2,000 people present. Last Monday, for the one day international, the ground was full.

England's poor showing in the Test matches is starting to take a heavy toll at the gate, and although Botham bowled an admirable first spell Thomas

who started the bowling with him, conceded six fours in his first three overs, the first of which Gower, at wide mid-on, should have stopped. With so few runs to play with England needed a much tighter opening than this.

Both Haynes and Greenidge looked in punishing form until first Greenidge began to limp and then Haynes took a knock on the finger from Foster, which needed repairs. Par for this pitch must be at least one battered finger a day.

Though less green than on Thursday it was still mettlesome. By noon on another steamy day Greenidge was not only hobbling, he was taking pills and wearing a short sleeved sweater. He had also passed 5,000 runs in Test cricket and lost Haynes, well

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First innings

G A Gooch c Richards b Garner	14
R T Robinson c Marshall b Garner	10
D I Gower c Dujon b Garner	10
D M Smith c Greenidge b Patterson	47
W J Leno b Holding	20
I T Botham b Holding	20
P R Doreen c Garner b Marshall	10
J E Embury c Haynes b Marshall	10
R A Foster c Richards b Holding	10
J G Thomas not out	10
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 1, nb 2)	21
Total	200

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-28, 3-31, 4-122, 5-124, 6-151, 7-182, 8-181, 9-198.

BOWLING: Marshall 22-4-71-2; Garner 19-5-34-2; Patterson 16-3-51-1; Holding 14-4-52-3.

WEST INDIES: First innings

C D Greenidge b Embury	42
D L Haynes c Botham b Foster	25
R B Richardson not out	31
H A Gomes not out	10
Extras	1
Total (for 2 wickets)	109

***V A Richardson, P J Dujon, M D Marshall, R A Foster, I T Botham, D M Smith, D I Gower, W J Leno, J E Embury, J G Thomas to bat.**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58, 2-72.

Umpires: C Comberbach and S Mohammed.

Kiwis face finalists

Colombo (Reuters) - The New Zealand cricket team arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday to take part in an invitation limited-overs tournament against the two finalists of the Asia Cup, now being held in Colombo.

The Sri Lankans produced with an impressive bowling performance in their match against Pakistan but their batting cost them the game. The local side displayed better form against Bangladesh and the Kiwis, fresh from their home series triumph over Australia, could have their hands full tomorrow.

The match also will serve as a good test for both sides who are likely to meet again in the inaugural five nation Australasia Cup which begins in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, next week. India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka will play in Sharjah.

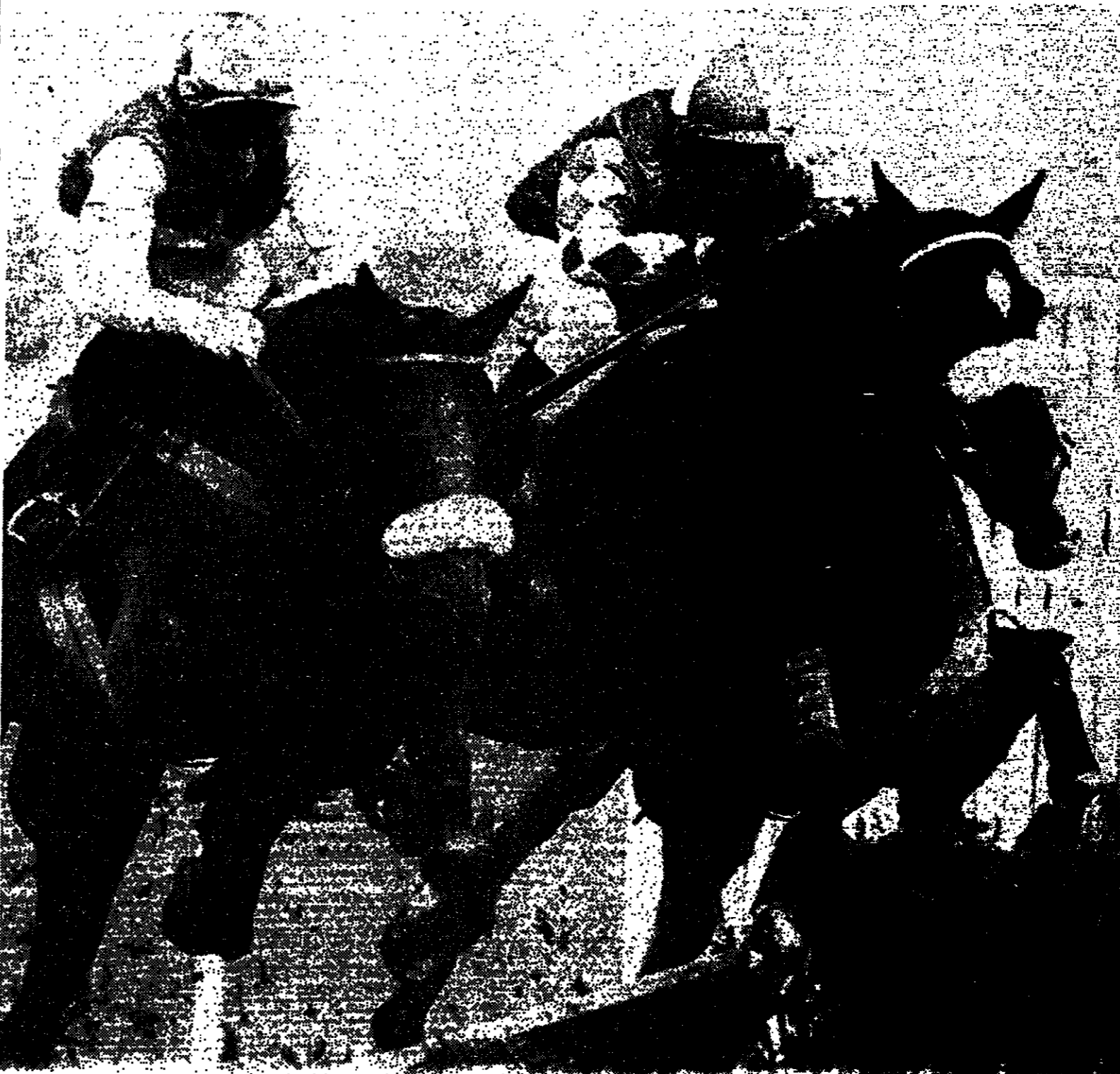
caught at second slip by Botham off Foster. Foster had just replaced Botham and he greeted Richardson by beating him twice outside the off stump.

Since Thomas had come off after his three costly overs England had made runs very much harder to get. Botham's first eight overs yielded only 12 and when Embury came on, with the cross breeze blowing from cover point, he dropped straight into the groove and found some turn around the right hander's leg stump. Whereas the first half hour of the morning had brought 31 runs, only 38 came in the next 90 minutes.

Port of Spain (Reuters) - A Trinidadian businessman yesterday filed a High Court motion against seven English cricketers who toured South Africa.

Eden Shand, who is also a journalist, claims the presence of former opener Boycott plus Gooch, Embury, Willey, Taylor, Ellison and Smith, is prohibited under the Trinidad and Tobago Immigration Act.

Irish deliver the old one-two



The Irish, who have five runners in today's Grand National, warmed up for the main attraction by sending off first and second in the valuable Glenlivet Hurdle at Liverpool yesterday. Dark

Raven (pictured right), the season's leading four-year-old hurdler, extended his unbeaten sequence to four when he withstood the last-flight challenge of his compatriot, Raretylo, to take the £20,000 event. Dermot

Lautern Lodge and Monanora. Apart from Dark Raven's impressive success, yesterday's other highlight was the victory of Caroline Beasley, who became the first woman to win a race over the Grand National fences when she

partnered her own horse, Elligarty, in the R.E.A. Bott Foxhunters' Chase.

Photograph: Ian Stewart
 Racing, pages 36 and 37

GOLF

Hot-shot Lyle in front

From Mitchell Platts, Greensboro, North Carolina

Sandy Lyle found himself at the top of the leader board in the Greater Greensboro Open yesterday. After an opening round of 68, he maintained his impressive challenge at Forest Oaks with a six-under-par 64 to finish on 132.

With six birdies in the first 15 holes hooked every inch the Open Champion. It mattered not whether he used his driver or his one iron for he effortlessly fired the ball way beyond those of playing partners George Archer, the

1969 US Masters Champion, and Gil Morgan.

At the ninth, which measures 572 yards, Lyle's solid drive found the heart of the sun-baked fairway and, with 270 yards still to negotiate, he powered the three wood shot to within 10 feet of the hole.

He missed the chance of an eagle, but Lyle had earlier eased his putting anxieties. In fact, the offending implement, with which he has spoiled many chances this season was not even required at the third

where he holed a delicate chip from 30 feet for his first birdie. Then, at the fifth, he left himself with a tap-in following a superb approach from 145 yards.

At the seventh he holed from 25 feet during a sequence of five threes in six holes.

A "hot" putter will be essential at Augusta, where the US Masters will unfold next week. Lyle has surprisingly never managed a top ten placing in an American tour event - his best effort is a tie for 13th in the Tournament of Champions this season.

The prospect of a Lyle victory gathered momentum as he confidently holed a putt of 6 feet for another birdie at the short 12th. At that stage he was in the lead because American Leonard Thompson, the leader after the first round, had fallen back in spite of a good start to his second round.

Nick Faldo hit a second-round 68 for a total of 142.

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FOOTBALL

A pointed effort

By Clive White

With the Merseysiders otherwise engaged, Manchester United have the chance to close the gap, if only temporarily, on the joint leaders today by earning a point or three at Highfield Road. Coventry parted company with Frank Upton, their assistant manager, yesterday.

Chelsea, whose championship dream was shattered by a disastrous Easter, could start piecing it together again at home to Ipswich.

FA Cup previews, page 38

Aston Villa will have been cheered by the news yesterday that Mita Cospatar, their Japanese shirt sponsors, have agreed to extend their £125,000 contract for a further year. Canon, their rivals, withdrew their support of the Football League at the end of the season. "Major companies like ours who come here to win business should support and invest in the British way of life," Hiroshi Tomaya, their managing director, said.

Harkouk's call

The Notts County forward Rachid Harkouk has been selected for the Algerian World Cup squad, who play in the same group in the finals as Northern Ireland.

BADMINTON

Inhibited victory by Troke

From Richard Eaton, Uppsala, Sweden

Helen Troke, from Southampton, had to struggle harder than one would have liked before reaching the last four in defence of her women's singles title in the European championships here yesterday. She beat Eline Coene 11-4, 12-9 but appeared an inhibited fighter, especially when the Dutch No 1 was leading 9-8 in the second game and was beginning to let her up.

The win by Troke's semi-final opponent, Svetlana Beliasova, was more straightforward but more significant. By beating Maria Henning, the unseeded Swede, 11-8, 11-4, Beliasova became the first Soviet player to progress so far in a big badminton event. Acceptance into the Olympics last year is having its effect upon the sport.

The rest of the English singles contingent were beaten. The No 2, Fiona Elliott, went down 11-2, 11-4 to Kirsten Larsen, the favourite from Denmark, whose long arms and legs seem to move about the court at an ever-increasing rate; defeats for the national champion, Darren Hall, and the runner-up, Steve Butler, to Torben Carlsen and Michael Kjeldsen meant that Denmark, with all four semi-finalists, were bound to keep the men's singles title.

England's all-time record of five gold medals out of six, achieved in the last championships in Preston two years ago, is not beyond them.

Martin Dew, at the centre of much of the political rumpus, subsequently lost his men's doubles title, in partnership with Dipak Tailor.

They had a match point in the final game at 17-17 against Jan-Eric Antonsson and Per-Gunnar Johansson before losing 17-15, 4-15, 18-17 but missed their best chance when they served independently and lost a first-game lead of 9-2.

That allowed the crowd the chance to get behind their Swedish hero. Shuttle boxes, struck forcefully together, boomed the English to defeat.

Tailor, disappointed to lose Dew as his partner in the month, thus suffered another disappointment, although his performance often glittered with sharp-witted potential. The Kenyan-born youngster was beaten again soon afterwards by a Swedish mixed doubles partnership.

HOCKEY

Britain's hosts sweat

From Sydney Friskin, Karachi

Pakistan 1
 Great Britain 1

Great Britain came close to beating an unimpressive Pakistan side in the first match of the eighth Champions Trophy tournament here yesterday. They had to settle for a draw before a crowd of 8,000. The teams had also drawn 1-1 in the previous tournament at Perth, Australia last November.

Even before James Duthie had given Britain the lead in the thirteenth minute their hosts looked unstable as Batchelor, Kerly and Leman found the route to goal more readily than they could have expected in the gruelling heat. Batchelor came close to scoring with a scoop across the face of the goal.

A free hit was awarded to Britain after the umpires had disagreed and it led to a splendid goal. The ball was lofted into the circle from the right by Potter and Duthie,

sprinting in from the left, beat the goalkeeper with an accurate volley. Pakistan's defence continued to falter and the more was the pity that Britain did not consolidate their position.

The Pakistan citadel could have fallen again in the 29th minute at a short corner from which successive shots by Barber and Leman were saved on the line by Qazli Mohib. A little earlier Pakistan had missed their first chance of equalizing when Hassan Sardar miscued in front of an open goal. Shortly before half-time Taylor made two saves at short corners.

Britain began the second half with two substitutions: Bhanu came in for Leman and Imran Sherwani for Duthie. Pakistan began to find their rhythm and troubled the British defence, who managed to repel several individual attacks.

As Pakistan continued to search for a goal they missed two chances. Farhat Khan

took an enormous swing and failed to connect. Then Hassan Sardar ended a brilliant run by shooting wide of the far post.

It was left to Pakistan's outside right, Qasim Khan, to set up the chance from which they scored. Hassan Sardar driving home his back-pass. But even in the closing minutes Pakistan were not free from trouble as Kerly and Batchelor continued to rush through open spaces.

In the remaining matches of the day West Germany beat India 3-0 and Australia, the holders, defeated The Netherlands 4-1.

PAKISTAN: Mohiuddin; Qazi Mohib, Nasir Ali, Abdul Rashid, Ayaz Mahmood, Naeem Akhtar, Qasim Khan, Saif Sherwani, Hassan Sardar, Farhat Khan (sub: Saibaz Khan), Wasim Perwez.

GREAT BRITAIN: Taylor; S Martin, P Barber, J Potter, R Dods, W McConnell, S Batchelor, R Leman (sub: K Bharu), S Kerly, D Faulkner, J Duthie (sub: Imran Sherwani), Bhanu, R Lethbridge (The Netherlands) and A Steiner (West Germany).

ATHLETICS

Harris can improve on record

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The Kodak AAA 10 kilometre championship, which begins just before midday today in Battersea Park, promises to be one of the best road races ever staged in Britain. Steve Harris, course record holder with 27 min 56 sec, and Steve Overt, beginning his move up to longer track distances, with Dave Lewis, the best all-round distance runner in Britain last year, face Mike Musyoki of Kenya, the top road runner on the United States circuit, and Mark Neno, holder of the world's best 10km time of 27.22.

Harris is the man in form, as befits someone who works for an express delivery service. He had an easy win over Lewis and Terry Greene, the revelation of the Newcastle City centre 5km 8-week last Wednesday. Harris also won this race the last time he ran in 1983, beating Overt into fourth place.

A similar victory today would earn Harris £1,000 to go with his appearance money. But Overt's contention that his long winter training without racing may have left him rusty should not be taken too seriously. And Musyoki and Neno will be the other interesting factors.

The Kenyan was first in 28.21 and the American third in 28.29 in the Santiago 10k two weeks ago, but this will be the first road race for both of them outside the United States.

Those Santiago times are a minute outside Neno's world best for the distance. And he admits he is not running as well as when he did that 27.22 in the Crescent City Classic in 1984. Harris may have to beat his course record to win.

Harris, Overt and Sebastian Coe, who is "only jogging round" in the 3k fun-run beforehand, are all competing again in the Seven Counties 12-stage road relay on Wimbledon Common tomorrow. And Paul Davies-Hale, who could have upset everybody in the Battersea race has chosen instead to run the Digital Watches half-marathon in Reading, also tomorrow. He is favourite for the £1,000 first prize, and will earn another £1,000 for breaking the relatively soft course record, of 63.55.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kelly aims for top

Sean Kelly, of Ireland, will be hoping to continue where he left off three weeks ago, when he won Milan-San Remo race in brilliant fashion, when the 180-mile Tour of Flanders begins tomorrow (John Wilcockson writes).

A new climb has been added to the already-challenging course. The Paterberg hill is only 378 metres long, but large cobblestones and a one in five gradient will provide a severe test. The main rivals for Kelly, who has already won 10 races this year, are expected to be Moser, of Italy, and Vanderaerden and Plackaert, both of Belgium.

Eder expelled

The Brazilian Football Association have dropped Eder and Sidney, two left-wingers, from their World Cup party and Edivaldo, aged 24, who is uncapped, has been called up to replace them. Eder was sent off during last Tuesday's international against Peru after punching Castro, the right back, in the face and has been expelled from the squad as a disciplinary measure. Sidney has suffered a hamstring injury and will not practice before the end of the month.

Soundess talks

Graeme Soundess, Scotland's World Cup captain, confirmed yesterday that he is to have talks this weekend about his future with Sampdoria, the Italian club. Soundess has one more year of his contract remaining and it is believed he may return to England as a player-manager.

Welsh cloud

England beat Wales 4-0 and drew 0-0 with Scotland at the start of the Home Counties schoolgirls tournament in Aberystwyth yesterday (Joyce Whitehead writes). In the first match of the day, Ireland beat Wales 1-0.

Record breaker

Stephen Hendry, the 17-year-old Scottish champion, made snooker history yesterday when he defeated Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, 10-9 to become the youngest-ever player to reach the Embassy World championships at Sheffield.

Kaylor out

Mark Kaylor, the former British and Commonwealth middleweight champion, has pulled out of his bout with Kenny Snow next Wednesday and will miss the rest of the season. Kaylor, suffering from blocked sinuses and breathing difficulties, will enter hospital next week for an operation.

Paragon alone

Paragon, the 60ft British trimaran skippered by Mike Whipp, scored a significant victory yesterday (Barry Pickthall writes). She not only beat the best French multihull fleet in class two at La Trinite but secured line honours ahead of the leading 80-footers in the second of a series of Grand Prix races.

Handwritten note: "لا تتركه في البيت"